

Hafa Adai!

500 Sails goes to NZ to help build *proa*. **PAGE 2**
Thieving vs elderly, disabled now punishable. **PAGE 7**

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75¢

'902 report reflects the NMI's best interests, military's plan'

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

ON THE NET

► <https://www.doi.gov/sites/doi.gov/files/uploads/902-consultations-report-january-2017.pdf>

The final draft of the 902 report that was transmitted to congressional leaders presents the best interest of the CNMI on the issues of labor and the planned military activities in the Commonwealth, according to Sen-

Man in car chase is arrested again

By FERGIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

An ex-convict who allegedly had a 40-minute car chase with police and was charged with several traffic citations,

but failed to appear at his arraignment was arrested yesterday afternoon.

The CNMI Marshal Service Division served the bench warrant on Vincent San Nicolo. **See MAN on Page 4**

3rd degree course eyed for NMC

By ERWIN ENCINARES
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REPORTER

Newly installed Northern Marianas College president Dr. Carmen Fernandez is aggressively pushing for a new bachelor's degree course to be offered by the lone college



Fernandez

in the CNMI.

Fernandez said she has been pursuing several goals for NMC, including the offering of a third bachelor's degree course in criminal justice, among many others, within her first year. **See NMC on Page 4**

ate President Arnold Palacios (R-Saipan).

The 902 report offers recommendations as to how the

U.S. federal government can aid the CNMI's steadily growing economy after federal im-

See 902 on Page 4

Counterclaim vs Yamamoto

By FERGIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

The owners of cargo ship M/V *Luta* have filed counterclaims for fraud and other claims against Japanese investor Takahisa Yamamoto.

M/V *Luta*, Luta Mermaid LLC, Luta Mermaid presi-

dent Abelina T. Mendiola, and Luta Mermaid members Deron T. Mendiola and Fidel S. Mendiola III also filed counterclaims against Yamamoto for invalid arrest of the ship and for breach of fiduciary duty.

See COUNTERCLAIM on Page 4



INAUGURAL FLIGHT

Acting governor Arnold I. Palacios shares a toast with HK Express general manager Sherman Luk, left, and Marianas Visitors Authority managing director Chris Concepcion after the press conference for the inaugural flight of HK Express to Saipan.

ERWIN ENCINARES

INSIDE



NATION

Earth sizzled to a third-straight record hot year in 2016.

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Gambian President Yahya Jammeh faces the prospect of a military intervention.

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LIFE & STYLE

Alanis Morissette's former business manager admits embezzling from her.

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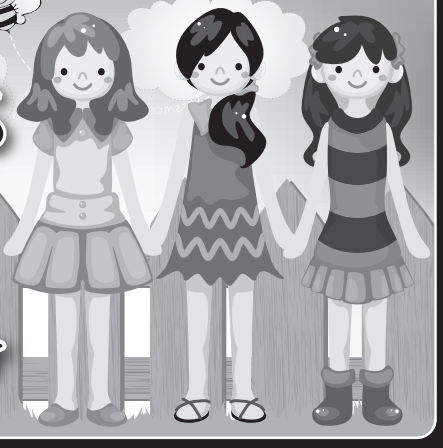
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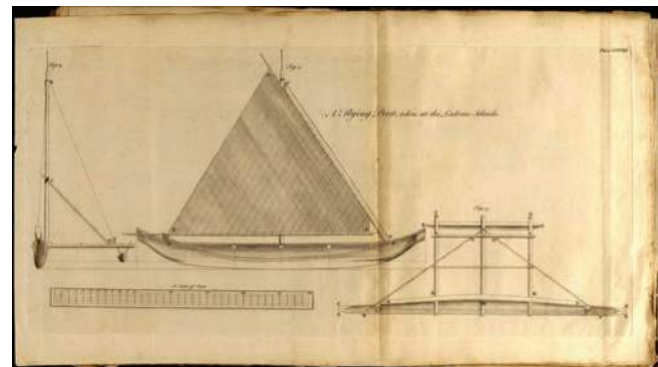
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Local

500 Sails goes to NZ to help build *proa*



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
From left, Jerrold Calvo, Mike Finey, Ray "Boss" Alvarez, Jay Igisa-iar, Pete Perez, and Ron Acfalle.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
The group will be working from what is referred to as the "Anson drawing" of a Chamorro canoe from 1742 that was drawn on Tinian.

Members of the 500 Sails organization left yesterday morning for New Zealand to build and bring home a 25-foot prototype of a Chamorro *proa* (sailing canoe). The trip

will take them 36 hours.

The travelers include Pete Perez, 500 Sails executive director; Ray "Boss" Alvarez, senior *sakman* leader; Jerrold Calvo, business manager; Jay Igisa-iar and Mike Finey, *sakman* leaders. Also joining them is traditional seafaring practitioner Ron Acfalle from Ulitao in Guam. They will be gone for about a month.

They will be working from what is referred to as the "Anson drawing" of a Chamorro canoe from 1742 that was

drawn on Tinian.

The master boat builder in New Zealand was originally going to come to Saipan but health issues did not allow him to travel. That, combined with the delay in the repair of the Guma Sakman in Susupe, helped guide the decision to go to him. The group will be working in a workshop in Waihi set up for building large fiberglass boats (yachts, catamarans, etc.) and living together for the duration, some perhaps even in tents. They will be buying a barbecue. The hosts don't have one, and are going to get a real treat when the men start cooking.

This is a historic group of Chamorro and Carolinian men that will change the face of the lagoon as they begin to fill it with traditional Chamorro and Carolinian canoes made of modern materials. This will be done by helping the community to build and sail their own canoes. Using modern materials will allow them to make canoes accessible to everyone.

Follow 500 Sails and Dolphin Club Saipan on Facebook.

500 Sails is grateful for the support of its board of directors and advisory board, the CNMI Department of Land and Natural Resources, Mariana Resort and Spa, the Northern Marianas Humanities Council, Commonwealth Council for Arts & Culture, and the Social and Economic Development Strategies program of the Administration for Native Americans. (PR)

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VA benefits for those sickened by Camp Lejeune water

WASHINGTON—The Department of Veterans Affairs has published regulations to establish presumptions for the service connection of eight diseases associated with exposure to contaminants in the water supply at Camp Lejeune, N.C.

The presumption of service connection applies to active duty, reserve and National Guard members who served at Camp Lejeune for a minimum

of 30 days (cumulative) between Aug. 1, 1953, and Dec. 31, 1987, and are diagnosed with adult leukemia; aplastic anemia and other myelodysplastic syndromes; bladder cancer; kidney cancer; liver cancer; multiple myeloma; non-Hodgkin's lymphoma; or Parkinson's disease.

"We have a responsibility to take care of those who have served our nation and have been exposed to harm as a result of

that service," said Veterans Affairs Secretary Robert A. McDonald. "Establishing a presumption for service at Camp Lejeune will make it easier for those veterans to receive the care and benefits they earned."

Environmental health experts in VA's Technical Workgroup conducted comprehensive reviews of scientific evidence, which included analysis and research done by the Department of Health and

Human Service's Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry, the Environmental Protection Agency, the International Agency for Research on Cancer, the National Toxicology Program, and the National Academies of Science.

Veterans with 30 or more cumulative days of active duty service at Camp Lejeune during the contamination period are already eligible for certain medical benefits, following passage of the Honoring America's Veterans and Caring for Camp Lejeune Families Act of 2012.

In the early 1980s, volatile organic compounds, trichloro-

ethylene, a metal degreaser, and perchloroethylene, a dry cleaning agent, as well as benzene and vinyl chloride, were discovered in two on-base water supply systems at Camp Lejeune. The contaminated wells supplying the water systems were shut down in February 1985.

The area included in this

presumption is all of Camp Lejeune and MCAS New River, including satellite camps and housing areas.

The rule will be effective either 60 days after publication in the *Federal Register*, or following conclusion of the 60-day congressional review, whichever is later. (PR)

Food Express reopens under new management

A more than 30-year veteran of the food and beverage industry has taken over the management of Food Express in Gualo Rai and owner Neil Metran vows to transform it as the go-to place for fusion food on Saipan.

Metran, who used to manage a number of restaurants in one of Saipan's premier hotels, flung open the doors of the Springs Plaza joint last Wednesday. For his first promotion, he launched a week-long all-you-can-eat pasta buffet for lunch.

For just \$8.50, diners can enjoy four types of pasta dishes—penne pasta with cream sauce, seafood pasta, Spaghetti ni Mare (a playful twist of spaghetti di mare), and pasta in tomato herbs and olive oil as well as the Filipino party

staple, pancit bihon.

Metran said the idea of owning his own restaurant began 10 years ago and he's excited that he finally fulfilled his dream after buying Food Express.

He is confident that he can put his mark on the island's now very crowded food industry by positioning the newly reopened Food Express as the mecca for fusion food.

Metran said he plans to make the restaurant different from other local eateries by serving food normally found in hotels, but at an affordable price.

He said diners should also expect a complete menu overhaul every three to six weeks.

Just some of the mouth-watering typical hotel fare listed in Food Express' *a la carte* menu include Hawaiian poke and spicy tuna, roasted

pumpkin soup, chicken and beef quesadilla, sizzling fajita beef and chicken, and strawberry jubilee. It also has a bevy of fruit smoothies ranging in price from \$2.50 to \$4 and pretty soon will also offer bakery products from Hyatt Regency Saipan.

Food Express is also expected to get a boost once Metran's son, Sheen, arrives to help in the family business. The younger Metran is a graduate of the Asian Academy of Culinary Arts in the Philippines and recently interned in a hotel in Indonesia.

Food Express can accommodate as much as 45 customers and is open from 10:30am to 2:30pm for lunch and from 5pm to 9pm for dinner. Call 285-3277 for more information. (Mark Rabago)

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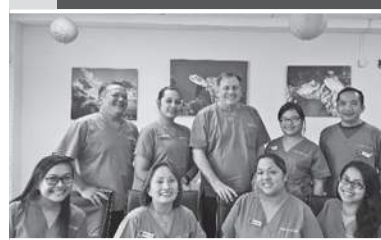
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Man allegedly burglarizes shop with hammer

A 28-year-old man allegedly broke into the 670 Rock Steady Shop in Gualo Rai by breaking the glass window with a hammer early Wednesday morning and stealing jewelry, clothes, and other items worth \$4,026.

Police said that Moses Leeroy Rangamar admitted to the burglary. He was arrested for burglary and theft. Police recovered some of the stolen items. His bail was set at \$11,000 cash; preliminary hearing is on Jan. 25 at 9am.

According to shop's owner, still more items are missing.

Chief Public Defender Douglas Hartig was appointed as counsel for Rangamar. Assistant attorney general Heather Barcinas appeared for the government.

A police officer responded on Wednesday at 4:59am to a burglary and theft incident at 670 Rock Steady Shop on Chalan Pale Arnold in Gualo Rai.

The shop's owner told the officer that among the stolen items were assorted G-Shock and Hello Kitty wrist watches,

assorted jewelry, wallets, 670 Rock Steady clothes, and a cash box.

Two other police officers, who also responded to the scene, made a routine check at U-Luck Poker II north of 670 Rock Steady and noticed a silver Ford Fusion 4-door sedan whose window was open. In the back seat were 670 Rock Steady jersey wrapped in plastic packages and Geo Star

wristwatch boxes.

Rangamar approached and stated he owns the car.

The 670 Rock Steady Shop owner was later escorted to U-Luck Poker parking lot where he identified all the items in the car to be their stolen property.

Rangamar was then arrested. Allegedly, he later admitted to the burglary. **(Ferdie de la Torre)**

COUNTERCLAIM

From Page 1

They asked the U.S. District Court for the NMI to hold Yamamoto liable to pay them damages for his alleged fraudulent actions in securing a maritime lien and the arrest of M/V *Luta*, and lost profits and cost of paying off the vessel's former captain and crew members, Norton Lilly, and Long Consulting.

They asked the court to order the immediate release of the ship and to declare the lien invalid.

Legal counsel William M. Fitzgerald stated in the counterclaims that Yamamoto met and became friends with Fidel Mendiola Jr. and his wife Abelina Mendiola through several visits to Rota.

During this time, Yamamoto allegedly became interested in acquiring the Sunset Villia, which was in a state of disrepair and in need of substantial renovations.

Having learned from Fidel Jr. about the difficulties of get-

ting materials and equipment to Rota because of the lack of shipping services, Yamamoto allegedly suggested that he would start a shipping company, which would augment his ongoing efforts to acquire Freedom Air, an airline serving Rota.

Fitzgerald said that Yamamoto then suggested that they would start a shipping business, which would be a joint venture between Yamamoto and Fidel Jr.'s family.

It was allegedly agreed that Yamamoto would be financing the business and the Mendiolas would provide time and services in the management, operation and logistics of the venture, which was to be done through Luta Mermaid LLC.

The joint venture proposal was to be a 50/50 split of the profits and losses of Luta Mermaid, with Abelina Mendiola and her children holding legal title to 100 percent of the shares of the company, and Yamamoto holding the beneficial ownership of the 50 percent of the shares.

Fitzgerald said after the renovations and a long and costly

transit from Louisiana to Rota, the vessel began operations.

The lawyer said up to the date of the ship's arrest last Oct. 25, Luta Mermaid was struggling financially to pay the cost of operations, but was still able to continue operations with prospects for future business looking bright.

He said M/V *Luta*'s crewmembers had agreed to a delay in the payment of their wages and both Long Consulting and Norton Lilly were willing to wait for payment for services provided by them.

Without any notice to any of the defendants, Fitzgerald said, Yamamoto sued them and arrested the vessel, falsely claiming that he was a provider of necessities to the ship, hiding the fact that he was a 50 percent joint venturer.

He said the arrest of M/V *Luta* prompted and required the crewmembers, Norton Lilly, and Long Consulting to file their own complaints.

The lawyer said Yamamoto then contracted with a private firm to be the custodian of the vessel.

danger to the community.

He noted that Norita is accused of speeding and eluding police officers while traveling from Chalan Laulau to Garapan to Tanapag to Koblerville.

The judge said Norita may file a motion to modify bail.

Norita, through counsel, entered a not-guilty plea.

A change of plea hearing will be held on March 9, 2017, at 1:30pm.

At the hearing yesterday, Sato argued that Norita's failure to appear at his arraignment was a misunderstanding on the counsel's and on defendant's part considering that the government already dismissed

the criminal charges against the defendant.

Assistant attorney general Jonathan Glass Jr., counsel for the government, opposed Sato's request, pointing out that Norita is a flight risk as one of the charges is eluding police officers.

Sato said the government should treat Norita like anybody else as the government has not been opposed quashing bench warrants.

"It makes me wonder what's the motive? I'm quite concerned about it," Sato said.

Glass said there is nothing different in this case.

The Office of the Attorney

General recently charged Norita with eluding police officers, reckless driving, speeding, running a red light, failure to follow traffic signs, and unsafe passing.

The OAG dismissed the criminal charges last month.

It was Norita who was allegedly involved in a car chase that ended when his car hit an embankment and overturned in Koblerville on the evening of Dec. 9, 2016.

The car chase went viral after a bystander took a video of a police officer, who appeared to be repeatedly hitting the suspect, Norita, with a baton or stick as he lay on the ground beside the overturned car.

will include upgrading classrooms technology as well as efficient student service offices and a 24-hour student center. Fernandez said NMC is expected to break ground later this year.

WASC accreditation

NMC also hosted what Fernandez believes was a "very successful visit" by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges – Senior College and University Commission.

NMC was visited by WASC last Dec. 1 to Dec. 3 2016.

"I am confident that NMC did well during the visit by the WASC," said Fernandez.

NMC prepared a month in advance for the visit.

MAN

From Page 1

las Norita when he showed up at the Superior Court yesterday, *Saipan Tribune* learned.

Presiding Judge Robert C. Naraja issued the bench warrant in the amount of \$5,000 after Norita failed to appear at his arraignment last Jan. 12.

At a bench warrant hearing yesterday afternoon, Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho denied assistant public defender Michael Sato's request to quash the bench warrant.

Camacho believes that Norita is a flight risk and a

NMC

From Page 1

100 days in office.

Fernandez just passed her 100th day in office as NMC president last Jan. 12.

Fernandez said she has been working with the University of Guam to offer a bachelor's degree program in criminal justice.

"All of the courses will take place here on campus," she said.

Fernandez clarified, though, that although the lessons would be taught here, the students would still receive a UOG criminal justice degree.

"We would have an articulation agreement. UOG would

certify [NMC] faculty to teach senior level courses for graduation," said Fernandez.

"Finalizing the agreement is currently in process. We hope the agreement will be set in a few months," she added.

Currently, NMC only offers bachelor's degrees in Education and Business Management.

Fernandez thinks that offering a new bachelor's degree on Saipan makes sense, given the number of alumni that have associate degrees in criminal justice.

"This is very good for our law enforcement community because we have many [officers] that have an AA in criminal justice. Now, they can

easily start to work on their bachelor's degree," she said.

Among the other items that Fernandez cites as her accomplishments within her first 100 days in office is significant facility improvements; training for employees; hiring of key personnel; and the re-establishment and establishment of many centers, associations, and programs, among others.

Fernandez, who is currently concentrating her efforts on NMC facilities master planning, plans to have eco-friendly facilities in the college. She has been meeting with members of the Legislature and the governor and other key partners for this project.

The facilities master plan

port is the result of an almost yearlong process that included several meetings and site visits. "At times, it felt as if we could not come together on concerns we brought forward to the federal team, especially with respect to land issues in the CNMI."

"We, however, continued to advocate for the CNMI people as hard as we could in both Washington, D.C. and here at home during the site visits. Ultimately, I feel that, through this effort, we have arrived at a report that fairly presents our concerns in a thoughtful and impactful manner," he added.

He said the process took a lot longer with the series of meetings and the incoming administration of President-elect Donald J. Trump, who will take his oath of office Friday in the U.S. mainland. "Given the incoming change of administration, we were not able to circulate the report to the CNMI Legislature for review and approval before sending the final [draft]."

"As a result, there are some differences of opinion with respect to the CNMI's rights under the Covenant and [Department of Defense's] proposed uses of land for military purposes that I do not believe are contained in the final report," Palacios added.

Torres, however, said in a statement the CNMI and DoD have agreed that improved communication and working relationship were developed through the series of 902 consultations. The CNMI and DoD also gained a better appreciation of each side's concerns that were raised on the proposed activities of the U.S. military.

"Resolving these issues in a mutually satisfactory manner will take more work and continued engagement, and a commitment to explore options and potential alternatives not currently being discussed," said Torres.

"However, these 902 consultations have laid the groundwork for such a relationship and our continued dedication to resolve these outstanding issues must continue. With our report making its way to the U.S. Congress, we are pleased with the progress and look forward to their feedback," he added.

Get a copy of the report on <https://www.doi.gov/sites/doi.gov/files/uploads/902-consultations-report-january-2017.pdf>

902

From Page 1

migration laws were also enforced in the Commonwealth since 2009.

Extending the CW1 program beyond 2019, providing permanent status to long-term guest workers, soliciting suggested regulatory changes to the CW program, using immigration policies to solve regional labor shortages, extending the eligibility for workforce development programs, beginning a cooperative relationship between the U.S. Department of Homeland Security and the CNMI, and recommending the creation of a CNMI-Department of Defense Coordinating Council for better representation on civilian and military affairs are the points that both panels agreed on.

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres, who led the CNMI panel in the 902 talks, said the recommendations would help balance U.S. national security interests in the Western Pacific. It also honors the federal government's commitment as stated in the Covenant that created the Commonwealth.

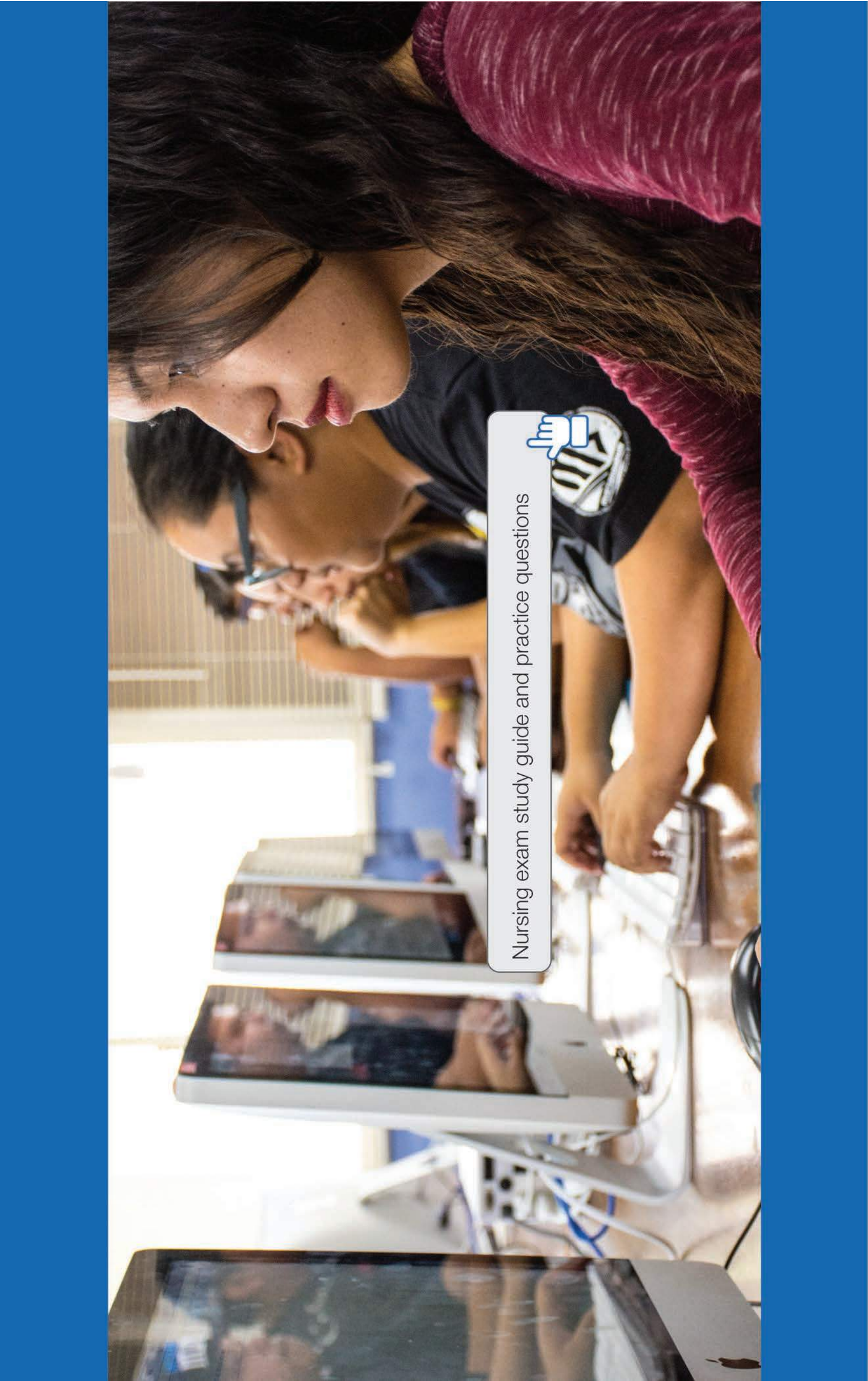
It also outlines the technical agreement on the use of land to be leased by the U.S. in the CNMI, with special respect on the importance of the Commonwealth's lands.

Palacios, at the time the Senate vice president of the 19th CNMI Legislature and currently the acting governor in the absence of Torres and Lt. Gov. Victor Hocog, was part of the CNMI panel as chairman of the Senate Committee on Federal Relations & Independent Agencies.

He joins local officials in hoping the GOP-dominated Congress would act quickly on the recommendations. "This report has now been sent to the U.S. Congress for further consideration and possible action."

"We are now able to present to the federal government, as a result of our work, a clearer picture of our positions regarding the proposed military projects on our islands as well as the current issues surrounding the [CNMI-Only Transitional Worker Nonimmigrant Visa Program] and our workforce to ensure the best interests of the Commonwealth are known and reflected."

Palacios said the final re-



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Origins of giant soda pop bottles previewed at Rotary meeting

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Steven R. Connor, Mariana Stamp and Coin Club founder, spoke about the origins of the giant concrete Coca-Cola bottles that once littered the landscape of Saipan and Tinian during last Tuesday's Rotary Club of Saipan meeting at the Hyatt Regency Saipan.

The presentation was a preview of the 2016 Rotarian of the Year's talk set for today, Jan. 20, at the American Memorial Park auditorium titled "History of Coca-Cola in the Mariana Islands."

Connor, a retired engineer and recent Saipan transplant, said his presentation is a research paper he wrote under a grant from the Northern Marianas Humanities Council.

More than anything, curiosity prompted him to do his research—someone came up to him and asked, "Where did these [concrete bottles] come from?"

"After driving by these concrete soda pop bottles on Saipan and Tinian, I recognized that they were unique...I thought these bottle advertisements to celebrate successful American industry would not be considered with just a little respect and/or consideration of the truth. So, I sought out a way to understand for myself and increase awareness of others about these concrete bottles," he said.

Connor said the giant concrete soda bottles, which includes the Sprite and Fanta brands, were first shipped from Macau to Saipan by



Steven R. Connor was the Rotary Club of Saipan's guest speaker during its weekly meeting last Tuesday at the Hyatt Regency Saipan.

Chinese businessman Timothy Lee Po Tin in the 1960s. Tin took over Coca-Cola's bottling operations on the island and it became the hub of the iconic soda brand in

Micronesia.

Tin's company proceeded to import these typhoon-proof concrete soda pop bottle advertising behemoths—20 in all—and planted them in strategic places on Saipan and neighboring Tinian.

Of the original 20, only 13

remain—nine on Saipan, one on Tinian, with three "rescued" from demolition and shipped to Guam.

Of the remaining structures on Saipan, one is at the Subway location at the Paseo de Marianas, one in front of a commercial complex near T

Galleria in Garapan (painted to match the building's color), two at Coca-Cola's warehouse and main office in Gualo Rai, three in front of Joeten Dandan, one on Tinian along Broadway, and two in "storage" at the back of the Coca-Cola warehouse along Middle Road.

The Garapan Roundhouse, the present Cargo Express facility in Lower Base, and the Galaxy snack bar near Northern Marianas College also used to host these giant soda pop bottles.

The three in Guam can be found at the Coca-Cola distribution plant, at the Guam Football Association, and in front of the Subway restaurant in Tumon.

Connor's presentation, "History of Coca-Cola in the Mariana Islands," will be from 6pm to 7pm at the AMP auditorium and admission is free.

Bordallo meets with DoD officials on Agent Orange

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Delegate Madeleine Z. Bordallo (D-GU) issued the following statement yesterday after meeting with senior Department of Defense officials to discuss Agent Orange on Guam during the Vietnam War.

"[Yesterday] I met with se-

nior DoD officials to discuss claims that Agent Orange was used [in] Guam during the Vietnam War. I appreciate the department's quick response in meeting to discuss my concerns. This was an initial meeting to discuss the deep concerns that have been raised in our community, and the DoD

has asserted that Agent Orange was not used on, stored or transshipped through Guam during the Vietnam War. I look forward to reviewing their records that support this claim and continuing to engage with the DoD and local stakeholders so that we have all the facts on this issue." (PR)

First Lady Diann Torres

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Thieving vs elderly, disabled now punishable crime

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres signed on Monday a bill that would punish those who rob the elderly and persons with disabilities.

Rep. Lorenzo I. Deleon Guerrero (Ind-Saipan) introduced House Bill 19-81; it is now Public Law 19-80.

Torres signed the bill before leaving to attend this Friday's inauguration of President-elect Donald J. Trump.

Torres advised the Legislature, however, to define the degree of disability and whether it refers to mental or physical disability.

Elderly citizens or persons

over 55 years old and persons with disabilities are usually vulnerable to theft and other forms of exploitation—through controlling their finances and decision making—either by individuals or institutions. These members of the community, especially the elderly, are also dependent on family members and/or caregivers.

The law aims to prevent a potential increase in the number of cases against the *man'amko* (elderly) and persons with disability.

Theft of property or service of over \$20,000 would merit the individual imprisonment

of not more than 10 years. If the value of the item robbed is at least \$250 but less than \$20,000, the perpetrator would be incarcerated for five years. If the value of the property is less than \$250, it will merit imprisonment of one year.

Persons would be imprisoned between one to three years and fined up to \$25,000 if the property's value is \$300 or less and the victim, is either at least 55 years old or disabled. Punishment is three to five years in prison and a \$25,000 fine if the property's value is over \$300 but less than \$5,000.

A five- to seven-year impris-

onment and a \$25,000 fine will be imposed on a person who robs an elderly or disabled person of property valued at \$5,000 or more but less than \$50,000; it will be incarceration of seven to 15 years and a fine of up to \$25,000 if the property's value is \$50,000 or more.

Parking zones

HB 19-80 is another bill that Torres signed last Monday, a measure introduced by Rep. Edwin K. Propst (Ind-Saipan) that aims to establish rules for the creation, removal, and operation of special parking zones and parking meter zones. CNMI laws on special parking zones were deemed

vague and required clarification. The Parking Act of 2015 is the other name of PL 19-79.

Propst, according to his bill, states that CNMI laws on disabled parking slots are also unnecessarily technical and has obstructed the Department of Public Safety's enforcement. The law aims to provide an increase in the enforcement of disabled parking areas. Persons who know that they are parked illegally in disabled parking zones would be punished according to what the law states.

DPS will be authorized in establishing special parking zones by using paint upon curbs or roadways. The colors

are red (no stopping, standing, or parking whether the vehicle is attended or unattended with the exception of a bus), yellow (stopping only for the purpose of loading and unloading passengers not more than five minutes, while freight may be loaded and unloaded no longer than 15 minutes), white (for loading and unloading passengers no longer than five minutes or depositing mail in an adjacent mailbox), green (time limited parking slots specified by DPS), and blue (parking space limited to vehicles used by disabled persons).

DPS will also establish parking meters and spaces. *(Jon Perez)*



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The Marianas Visitors Authority introduced its 2017 campaign "Paradise for Everyone" to 120 travel trade industry reps on Jan. 10, 2017, in Busan, Korea.

MVA launches 'Paradise for Everyone' in Korea

The Marianas Visitors Authority's 2017 marketing campaign "Paradise for Everyone" was officially launched and shared with 230 major travel trade partners in Korea this month.

Large banners with stunning images of Saipan, Tinian, and Rota greeted representatives of travel agencies, airlines, media, and other industry partners at the launch events on Jan. 9 in Seoul and Jan. 10 in Busan, the second largest city in Korea.

"In cooperation with several industry partners from the Northern Marianas, we

successfully launched 'Paradise for Everyone' to an enthusiastic audience in Korea this month, highlighted by information about the islands and specifics of the MVA's key activities and support programs this year," said MVA managing director Christopher A. Concepcion, who addressed attendees at the event, which was also attended by MVA board director Tommy Kim. "This was also an opportunity to thank our Korean partners for working with us in 2016 and to build on those ties for 2017. We anticipate continued strong arrivals from Korea in the year ahead."

The events were successfully carried out with 15 industry partners Asiana Airlines, Jeju Air, Jin Air, Eastar Jet, T'way Air, Kanoa Resort, Kensington Hotel, Pacific Islands Club, Aqua Resort Club, Lao Lao Bay Golf & Resort, Mariana Resort & Spa, Saipan World Resort, Hyatt Regency Saipan, Fiesta Resort & Spa, and T Galleria.

The event in Seoul included

an official appointment ceremony for two new Northern Mariana Islands tourism ambassadors, celebrity entertainer Jiyeon Park and popular singing artist Jaehoon Lee.

"Following their appointment, the two spoke highly of their experiences with various activities, gourmets, and travel spots in the Northern Marianas," said Concepcion. "Park recommended Saipan as the best family and honeymoon destination, while Lee endorsed the islands as an attractive destination for young tourists."

In Busan, body stylist Yeon Lee, who visited Saipan to film a 360-degree virtual reality video last year, shared her experiences and highly recommended the BOB (breathing observation bubble) underwater scooter tour. Lee's video was screened for the audience during the talk show.

As the event finale in both cities, a raffle was held for participants, and 14 air tickets, 16 hotel certificates and DFS shopping coupons were awarded. (MVA)

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PSS music, arts festival today and tomorrow

The 5th Annual CNMI Public School System Music and Arts Festival will be held today, Jan. 20, and tomorrow, Jan. 21, at the Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center.

Today, the event is from 6pm to 9pm. The schools will be performing a range from traditional dances to showing of films to band performances and reciting poetry.

Tomorrow, Jan. 21, is the exhibition of student's art works from 9am to 4pm, which include photographs, drawings and prints. That will also be the closing night, which will have a range of performances.

The Music and Arts Festival initially began as a showcase for the award winners who won competitions around the nation and here at home. It has since evolved to include up-and-coming winners like Out of the Ordinary and the San Vicente Elementary School Glee Club. This year also includes new to the scene groups like Rota's Primitive Dance Krew and the Humanities Council Valentine Sengebau Poetry winners. Veterans on the scene are the Marianas High School Glee Club Rhythm n' Harmony, POLKSAI Chamorro Club, and the Saipan Dance Studio.

The event is free and open to the public. **(PR)**

Small craft and high surf advisory today

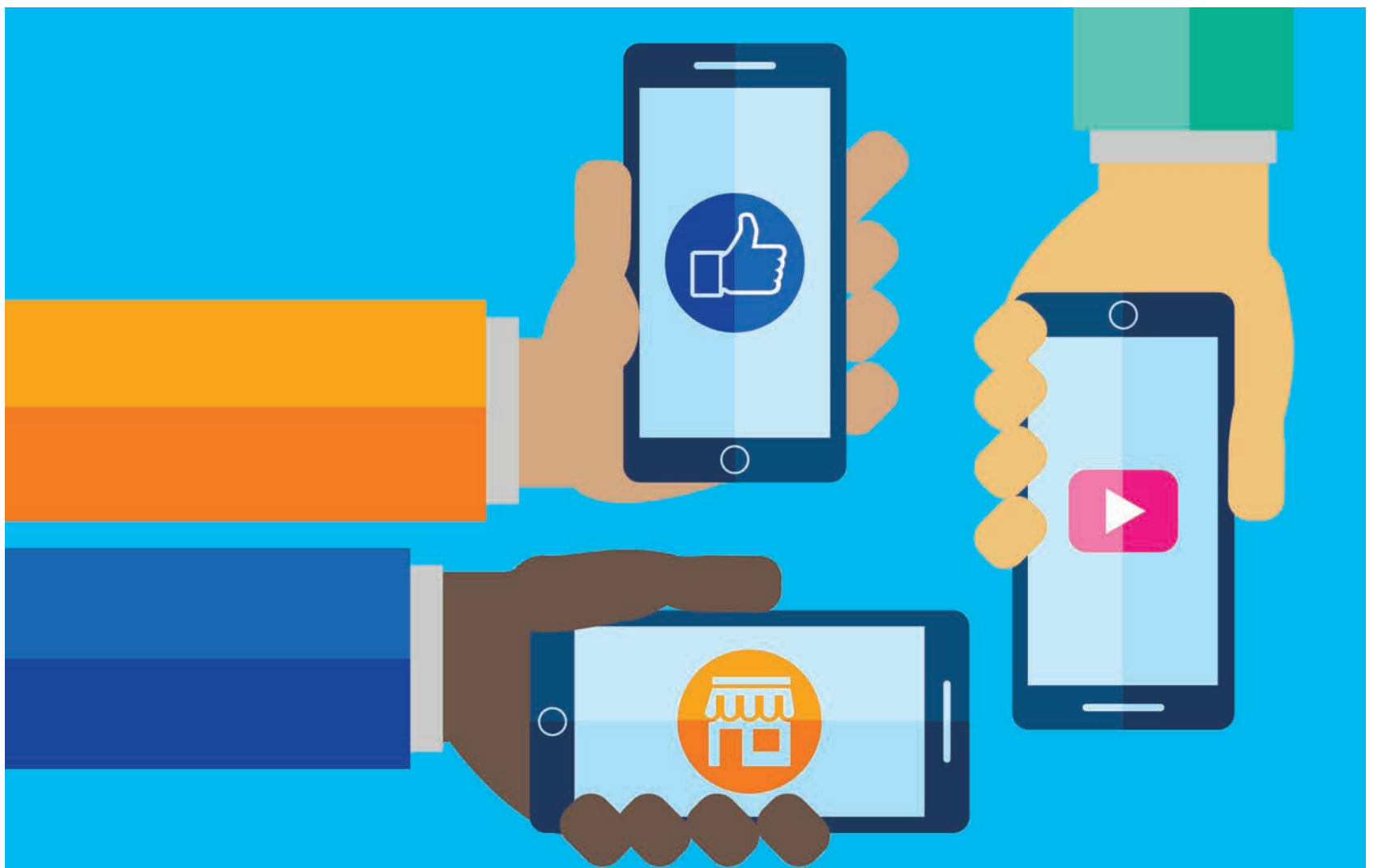
Combined seas of between 10 and 12 feet should be gradually subsiding over the next 24 hours as the frontal system weakens. Significant combined seas are expected to drop below 10 feet this Friday morning, although expect to see some peak waves of between 12 to 14 feet through most of the day.

A small craft advisory remains in effect until 6pm today. A high surf advisory is in effect until 6am Friday.

Northeast winds of 20 to 30 knots will begin to slowly subside but frequent gusts of 20 to 25 knots are still likely through the daylight hours today.

For north facing reefs, a large north swell continues to bring hazardous surf of 7 to 9 feet to the Marianas.

Mariners, especially those operating smaller vessels, should avoid sailing in these conditions. Avoid venturing near reefs along exposed beaches especially those facing north, east and west as rip currents will be life threatening. **(EOC)**



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MVA organizes Japan travel agents' tour



MVA Japan travel agents and a representative of United Airlines visit Grotto on Saipan as part of the Marianas Visitors Authority's familiarization tour on Jan. 11-14, 2017.

MVA Japan travel agents and a representative of United Airlines visit the Japanese peace memorial in Saipan as part of the Marianas Visitors Authority's familiarization tour on Jan. 11-14, 2017.

As part of its continued marketing in Japan, the Marianas Visitors Authority hosted eight travel agents from Osaka and Nagoya and a representative of United Airlines on a familiarization tour to Saipan on Jan. 11-14, 2017.

The group commenced their tour of Saipan with dinner at Casa Urashima. Early the next morning, the group caught the sunrise at Bird Island Lookout, followed by a tour of Grotto, Suicide Cliff, Last Command Post, and Banzai Cliff. Hotel site inspections were made at Mariana Resort & Spa, Kensington Hotel, Aqua Resort Club Saipan, Hyatt Regency Saipan, Fiesta Resort & Spa, Saipan World Resort, and Pacific Islands Club Saipan.

Dining was featured at Mariana Resort & Spa, Kili Caf   & Terrace at Hyatt Regency Saipan, barbecue lunch at Managaha, the Joyful dinner show at Fiesta Resort & Spa, and dinner at PIC. Other activities included shopping at T Galleria and I Love Saipan, a cocktail show at SandCastle Saipan, and a Polaris Razor trail tour with Let's Go Tour to Mt. Tapochao.

"This week's fam[i]liarization tour was significant in that it indicates strong interest in Osaka and Nagoya for the Northern Marianas," said MVA managing director Christopher A. Concepcion. "The MVA continues to negotiate with existing and new potential airlines—including low-cost carriers—about establishing new flights from Japan. There is some interest, and we must continue to promote and market diligently in Japan to build sufficient demand, including bringing travel agents who sell the destination to the islands to experience the destination first-hand so they can better sell it."

Participating travel agencies were: Hankyu Travel, Kinki Nippon Tourist, Ryobi Tour, Travel Plaza Int'l Western Japan, JTB World Vacations Osaka, JTB World Vacations Nagoya, United Tours, and IACE Travel.

Accommodations were provided by Hyatt Regency Saipan. (MVA)

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HOTEL OPERATIONS

Assistant Executive Housekeeper – Housekeeping	1
Supervisor – Housekeeping	10
Room Attendant	20
Supervisor – Public Area	5
Public Area Attendant	20
Supervisor – Laundry	3
Supervisor – Linen	2
Supervisor – Wardrobe	3
Linen Attendant	5

HOTEL OPERATIONS

Wardrobe Attendant	5
Laundry Attendant	5
Supervisor – Health Club	2
Supervisor – Beach	2
Supervisor – Pool	3
Beach Attendant	10
Beach Life Guard	5
Spa Therapist	5

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MYPros meets with award-winning photojournalist

Nancy Borowick is a humanitarian and photojournalist whose series of photos depicting her mother and father battling stage four cancers was nominated by *The New York Times* for a Pulitzer Prize, one of the highest awards for journalism. The project name was originally *Cancer Family, Ongoing*, but was recently made into a book, *The Family Imprint*, with help from a very successful Kickstarter campaign.

A regular contributor to *The New York Times*, her work has also been showcased on CNN, *National Geographic* and *The*

Washington Post. Her work has been recognized many times over the past six years with some important highlights. In 2014, Borowick won the Eddie Adams Workshop Award for Innovation in Visual Storytelling as well as one of the Best ASMP featured photographers and in 2015, she won the *National Geographic* + Visura contest.

Graduating with a degree in Anthropology and Photography from Union College in New York, Borowick has focused her work on telling stories of illness and personal relationships with her



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Nancy Borowick is shown here being interviewed for CNN.

camera. Her parents, Laurel and Howie, were married 34 years before both died within one year of each other. Her father suffered from pancreatic cancer while her mother battled breast cancer for over 17 years.

By capturing her parents' most intimate moments, Borowick was able to illustrate true love despite illness and express the struggle that many families face when a loved one gets sick. "One can only truly understand and appreciate life when faced with one's own mortality. Nobody wants to talk about death, but it is one of the only things that is certain in life, so an awareness of this finitude allowed my

family to take advantage of the time they had left together," she said in her website.

In addition, Borowick works and contributes to many non-profit projects, including Water for Triumph, Ghana on Tap, Touch A Life Foundation to End Child Slavery, Great Oaks Foundation, and The Solitude of Nadya.

"We are so honored to welcome Nancy to Saipan and for her to share her journey with our young professionals. She is truly an inspiring person who embodies courage and compassion. Our MyPros event welcomes her with open arms." MYPros vice president Nola Hix stated.

Borowick will be the guest

speaker for the MyPros Membership Meet on Jan. 25 at Aqua Resort's poolside.

"We really encourage all young professionals to come to this event, network, get more connected and listen to an amazing guest speaker," Hix added.

Tickets are \$40 each, which includes the annual MyPros membership fee. You can purchase tickets by emailing mypros.670@gmail.com or visit www.facebook.com/mypros670. Companies are also encouraged to purchase tickets for their aspiring young professionals.

Borowick's photos can be seen on her website: www.nancyborowick.com. (PR)



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REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

Procurement, Delivery, Training and Certification of Brand New Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA) Equipment For the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport Project No. CPA-RFP-006-17

The Commonwealth Ports Authority is soliciting sealed proposals from qualified companies to procure and deliver brand new self-contained breathing (SCBA) equipment for the Aircraft Rescue and Fire Fighting (ARFF) Departments at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, the Tinian International Airport and the Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport. Proposals are to include procurement, delivery, training and certification of equipment to each respective airport.

The equipment shall include the quantities and details and product specifications as provided within the scope of work. The scope and product data are available for pick up at the CPA Administration Office.

The proposals shall include the following:

1. Letter of interest;
2. Team Members;
3. Related past project performance (include commendations or certifications, if available);
4. Available resources to accomplish the project;
5. Cost proposal (in itemized SOW format); and
6. Valid Business License.

The contract period for procurement, delivery and certification will be based on the bidder's proposal. However, liquidated damages of \$500.00 shall be assessed the winning bidder for each calendar day the completion of the project is delayed beyond the acceptance date without approved excuse by CPA.

One original and four copies of all proposals are to be submitted in a sealed envelope marked with the respective RFP description to the office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority, 2nd floor of the Arrival Building, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, no later than 4:30 p.m., FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 2017.

Each proposal shall be accompanied by a bid bond issued by a CPA approved surety company, a certified check, or a cashier's check in the amount no less than ten percent (10%) of the total proposal amount. Checks shall be made payable to the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

All bidders responding to this RFP shall take into account any and all taxes that will be charged to the proposer awarded the procurement, including excise tax and associated shipping costs.

The procurement is being financed by funds from the Commonwealth Ports Authority. The contract award, if it is to be made, will be made within ninety (90) calendar days from the receipt of proposals. CPA reserves the right to hold the contract award for one hundred twenty (120) calendar days from the date of receipt of proposals.

This procurement is made in accordance with the CPA Procurement Rules and Regulations Section 40-50-225. Proposals will be evaluated and scored based on the following criteria:

1. Total cost for equipment procurement, delivery, training and certification	40%
2. Timeframe for delivery, programming, training and certification	30%
3. Experience of the firm on similar or related systems	15%
4. Qualifications of the principal(s) and assigned staff	15%

Questions and inquiries regarding this Request for Proposals shall be submitted in writing at least fourteen (14) days prior to proposal submission date and may be delivered to the Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority, at the Saipan International Airport, faxed to (670) 234-5962 or emailed to Assistant ARFF Chief William Camacho at bcamacho@cpa.gov.mp.

CPA reserves the right to reject any or all proposals submitted for: (a) any of the reasons set forth in this Request for Proposals; or (b) any of the reasons set forth in the CPA Procurement Rules and Regulations regarding bid rejection or cancellation; or (c) sufficient justification exists that awarding the project contract would not be in the best interest of CPA. CPA further reserves the right to waive any defects in said proposals if in its sole opinion to do so would be in CPA's best interest.

All proposals shall become property of the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

/s/ CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO
Executive Director

Date: January 18, 2017



UNITED STATES Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands COUNCIL ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES



NOTICE OF COUNCIL MEETING

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 12, the CNMI Council on Developmental Disabilities hereby gives notice that it will hold its 3rd Quarter General Membership Meeting on January 31, 2017, from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at the Pacific Islands Club – Charley's Cabaret.

AGENDA

- I. Call to Order
- II. Roll Call
- III. Review & Adoption of Agenda of January 31, 2017
- IV. Review & Adoption of Meeting Minutes of December 29, 2016
- V. Action Items
 - a. Review & Approve the Renewal of the Memorandum of Agreement between CDD and CAMI – Trankilu Alternative Financing Program
- VI. Reports
 - a. Chairperson
 - b. State Plan Committee Chairperson
 - c. Fiscal Committee Chairperson
 - d. Executive Director
- VII. OLD Business
 - a. Office of the Public Auditor's Code of Ethics Presentation
 - b. VOICES of the CNMI – Tinian Chapter Update
- VIII. New Business
 - a. Youth Conference
 - b. CRSP Update – Volunteer Respite Program Webinar
 - c. Wellness Recovery Action Plan Seminar 1 and Peer Worker Training
 - d. A Transition Guide to Postsecondary Education and Employment for Students and Youth with Disabilities
- XI. Miscellaneous
- XII. Next Meeting
- XIII. Adjournment

Note: Pursuant to P.L. 8-41, Section 13(a) 7, the Council may vote to meet in Executive Session.

In accordance to the American with Disabilities Act (ADA), individuals who wish to attend this meeting and require special accommodations are requested to call the Council 5 days in advance at 664-7000. The Public is welcome to submit written or 3 minutes oral comments regarding the agenda above.

/s/ Efren Nicholas
Chairperson

This ad was paid for by funds from the DD Basic Grant Part A (Administrative)

Federal court cosponsors high school civics contest

A civics contest organized by the federal courts of the western United States offers high school students a chance to win cash prizes while learning more about constitutional conflicts that arose during one of the most momentous periods in our nation's history.

"Not to Be Forgotten: Legal Lessons of the Japanese Internment" is the theme of the 2017 Ninth Circuit Civics Contest, an essay and video competition open to students in grades 9-12 in public, private, and parochial schools and home-schooled students of equivalent grade status.

The contest is sponsored by the U.S. District Court for the District of the Northern Mariana Islands and the Courts and Community Committee of the

Judicial Council of the Ninth Circuit. The deadline for entries is 11:59pm April 16, 2017. For more information visit <http://www.ca9.uscourts.gov/civicscontest>.

The district court will conduct preliminary judging to select the top three entries in both the writing and video competitions. Local winners go on to compete in the Ninth Circuit contest, which offers prizes of \$2,000, \$1,000 and \$500 for the top three finishers in each category. Local winners will be announced in May, circuit winners in June.

The contest theme relates to events occurring in 1942 following the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor. Presidential directives authorizing the military to take steps to guard against en-

emy sabotage or espionage on the West Coast led to the forced relocation of some 100,000 persons of Japanese descent, many of them U.S. citizens. Students are advised to consider U.S. Supreme Court decisions in 1943 and 1944, which gener-

ally upheld the internment policy, along with lower court decisions in the 1980s, which resulted in exoneration for two Japanese-American men who had resisted relocation. The cases bring into focus the constitutional conflicts that can arise when national security and individual rights are both

at stake. In studying the Japanese internment, students are asked to consider its relevance today as our nation seeks to protect against terrorism on American soil.

"The contest will uniquely add to the student's knowledge and understanding of the Constitution, which is the basis

of our democracy," said U.S. District Judge Janis L. Sammartino of San Diego, chair of the Ninth Circuit Courts and Community Committee.

For more information about the contest, contact Amanda Hayes at (670) 237-1230 or amanda_hayes@nmid.uscourts.gov. (PR)

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

After-school program at Kagman center

The Family & Youth Enhancement Program-Youth Services Section of the Division of Youth Services offers an after-school program at the Kagman Community Center on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays from 2:30pm to 5:30pm. Aside from homework/school project sessions, the program also provides for youth prevention activities that focus on literacy, art and music, career opportunities and cultural demonstrations. (PR)

Air Force training at Farallon de Medinilla

ASAN, Guam—The U.S. Air Force will conduct training at the island of Farallon de Medinilla today, Jan. 20, from 10am to 3pm. The public—especially fishermen, commercial pilots and marine tour operators—are advised to stay clear of the areas during the dates and times indicated. The general location of the training on the island of Farallon de Medinilla will be on a 12-nautical mile radius on all quadrants. (PR)



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SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1/1	1/2	1/3	1/4	1/5	1/6 Buffet Lunch \$14 Seafood & Sushi Night Reg.: \$35 (Local: \$25)	1/7 Seafood & Sushi Night Reg.: \$35 (Local: \$25)
1/8 Sunday Brunch \$22 Seafood & Sushi Night Reg.: \$35 (Local: \$25)	1/9	1/10 Seafood & Sushi Night Reg.: \$35 (Local: \$25)	1/11 Buffet Lunch \$14 Seafood & Sushi Night Reg.: \$35 (Local: \$25)	1/12	1/13 Buffet Lunch \$14 Seafood & Sushi Night Reg.: \$35 (Local: \$25)	1/14 Seafood & Sushi Night Reg.: \$35 (Local: \$25)
1/15 Sunday Brunch \$22 Seafood & Sushi Night Reg.: \$35 (Local: \$25)	1/16	1/17 Seafood & Sushi Night Reg.: \$35 (Local: \$25)	1/18 Buffet Lunch \$14 Seafood & Sushi Night Reg.: \$35 (Local: \$25)	1/19	1/20 Buffet Lunch \$14 Seafood & Sushi Night Reg.: \$35 (Local: \$25)	1/21 Seafood & Sushi Night Reg.: \$35 (Local: \$25)
1/22 Sunday Brunch \$22 Seafood & Sushi Night Reg.: \$35 (Local: \$25)	1/23	1/24 Seafood & Sushi Night Reg.: \$35 (Local: \$25)	1/25 Buffet Lunch \$14 Seafood & Sushi Night Reg.: \$35 (Local: \$25)	1/26	1/27 Buffet Lunch \$14 Chinese New Year Eve Reg.: \$35 (Local: \$25)	1/28 Chinese New Year Brunch \$25 Seafood & Sushi Night Reg.: \$35 (Local: \$25)
1/29 Sunday Brunch \$22 Seafood & Sushi Night Reg.: \$35 (Local: \$25)	1/30	1/31 Seafood & Sushi Night Reg.: \$35 (Local: \$25)				

* Our "Dolphin" restaurant (10th floor of Crystal Tower in Grandvrio Resort Saipan) has reopened as A-La-Carte restaurant. Welcome to enjoy fast & nice Lunch Menu (\$8~) and authentic Japanese Shabu Shabu or Sukiyaki for your dinner (\$35). "Spectacular Ocean view and Sunset" Starting from Nov. 07, 2016, our Dolphin restaurant brings out "Daily Chef's Special Lunch" from Mon. to Fri., everyday is different; \$12 only, 15 servings per day; First in First Out! Opening time: Everyday Lunch: 11:30am-2:00pm Last Order: 1:30pm / Dinner 5:30pm-9:00pm Last Order: 8:30pm

* "Starlight BBQ" Dinner Buffet Location: Poolside Price: Reg. AD \$39 CH: \$19 (Local: AD \$35/ CH \$17) Business hrs: 6:00-9:00pm
Menu: "All you can eat & drink" - beers, red & white wine, soft drinks, oolong tea and juices.

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Opinion

Hafa Adair!

Saipan Tribune

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EDITORIAL

Why Trump's tantrums will soon be dangerous

It's churlish for President-elect Donald Trump to pick fights with the likes of actress Meryl Streep. It's divisive to feud with Rep. John Lewis, a civil rights hero, on Martin Luther King Jr. weekend no less. It's damaging to criticize a key ally such as German Chancellor Angela Merkel and our NATO partners.

But if Trump can't control his tantrums once he's sworn in on Friday, it becomes downright dangerous.

What if an enemy—say North Korean dictator Kim Jong Un—provokes the new president by testing a missile capable of striking the U.S. mainland? Will Trump talk to his national security advisers, consult with South Korea and Japan and develop a strong yet measured response? Or will he immediately launch a war of words that could lead to a real military confrontation?

Statesmanship may be beyond Trump's capacity, but his inability to act at least somewhat presidential was on full display in his assault on Lewis.

The 30-year congressman said that he did not consider Trump a "legitimate" president because of Russian interference in the election, and that he would not attend Friday's inauguration. It's a bold statement, but not completely out of bounds.

Trump could have stayed above the fray, as President Barack Obama did when Trump questioned his legitimacy, or merely expressed disappointment as did Vice President-elect Mike Pence.

Instead, Trump went on the offensive, tweeting Saturday: "Congressman John Lewis should spend more time on fixing and helping his district, which is in horrible shape and falling apart. ... All talk, talk, talk—no action or results. Sad!"

What's pathetic is how Trump continues to ignore history and the facts. First, the Atlanta-area district Lewis represents includes corporate headquarters, Emory University and some suburbs as well as poor neighborhoods. Second, Lewis has a record of eloquent words and courageous action. As a student activist, he spoke at the March on Washington in 1963. He was also jailed and beaten multiple times, most graphically while trying to cross the Edmund Pettus Bridge in Selma in 1965.

In a follow-up tweet, Trump repeated his racist and ignorant view that America's inner cities are "burning and crime infested" ghettos.

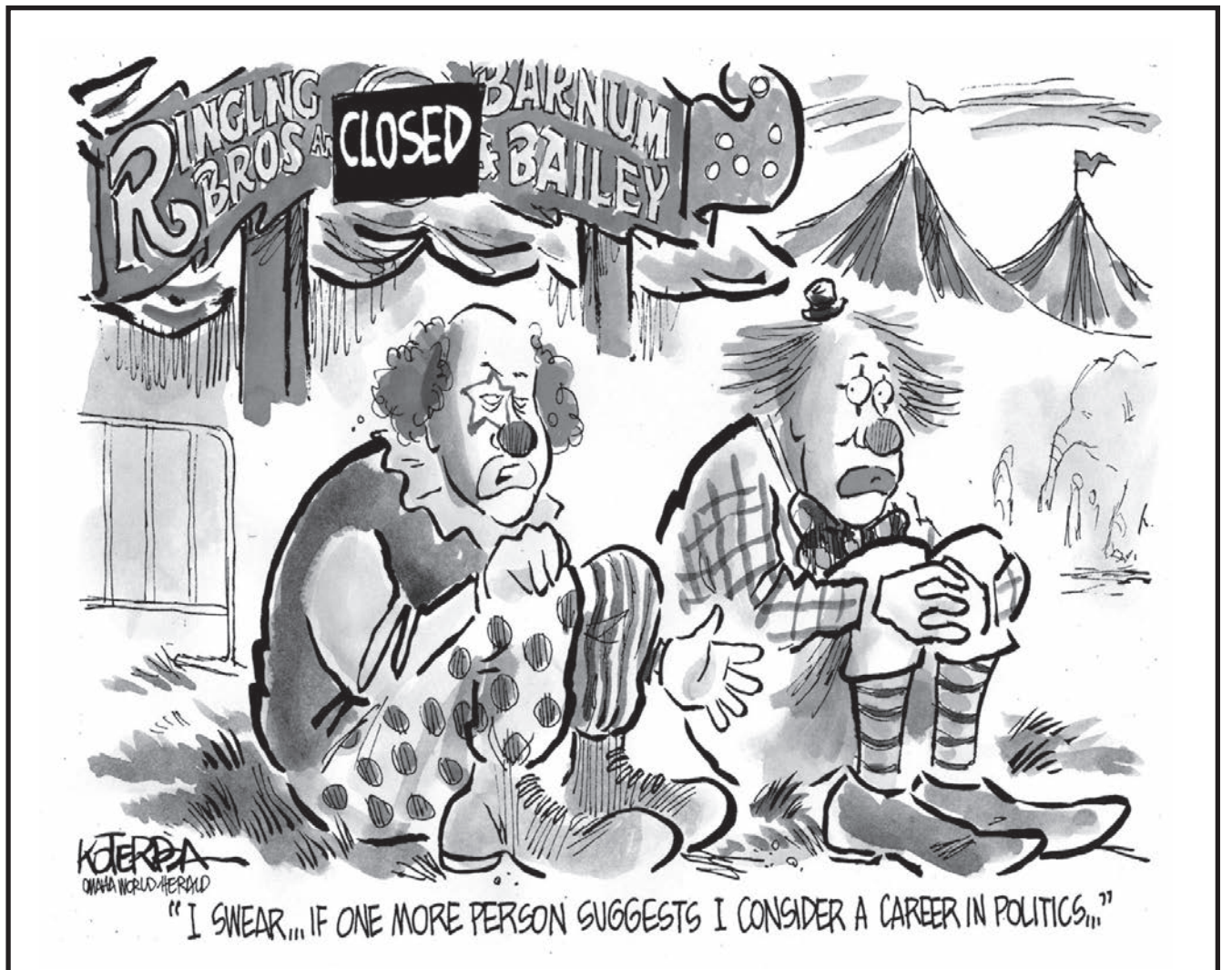
Trump's tweets were the last straw for a growing number of Democrats, two dozen-plus and counting, who are joining Lewis in boycotting the inauguration.

We're not sure it's the right response. Even if you don't support the man, you have to respect the office. But this is not a normal transition of power, so it is understandable.

As he becomes our 45th president, Trump should be uniting the nation, as he promised to do on election night.

Instead, he is further dividing it and raising more doubts about his readiness to lead.

(c)2017 The Sacramento Bee (Sacramento, Calif.)



Pinyin!

A n alert *Saipan Tribune* reader brought this news item to my attention: Zhou Youguang, the developer of the Pinyin system of Chinese, passed away on Jan. 14. He was 111 years old.

I'm going to take a broad look at Pinyin. Then I'll mention why it matters on Saipan.

Even if you've never heard the term "Pinyin," you've heard Pinyin terms. For example: "Beijing." That's the capital of China. It's also a Pinyin word, a word that puts a Chinese term into our alphabet so we can pronounce it.

Seems simple, right? It's not. Romanizing the Chinese language has proven to be as elusive as curing the common cold. Various remedies continue to compete for attention. Pinyin was established in mainland China in the 1950s, and it is the dominant method now, but in the big, wide world you can certainly encounter other methods.

Speaking of the big world, you've heard of Peking, right? It's one of the world's most famous cities. Here's a great bet for happy hour tonight: How far is Peking from Beijing?

Well, we can say that they're easily within walking distance of each other. That's because Peking and Beijing are the same city. So this isn't an issue of geography; it's an issue of linguistics. It's the same city, the same word, and the same written characters in Chinese. The only difference is that "Peking" is an old way of trying to convey the pronunciation alphabetically, and now, in the Pinyin era, "Beijing" is the conventional way to spell it out.

Even after Pinyin became dominant, some of the legacy terms, such as "Peking," were so widely written into the world's habits that they stuck around.

Since Pinyin puts things in alphabetical terms, it makes it easy to use an alphabetized English/Chinese dictionary. If you steer toward your average bookstore, at least in the English-speaking world, you'll find that Pinyin is a basis for most such dictionaries.

It also makes for a common way to use computer keyboards. When using a Chinese word-processor, the Pinyin can be typed, and then a list of corresponding Chinese characters will pop up. The user then picks the intended character, moves on to the next word, enters the Pinyin, and the process starts all over again.

Me, I'm up to 10 typos per minute using this method. I aim to improve, though, and I'll be at 15 t.p.m. by the end of the year. Ah, progress. And you thought I had no aptitude for the language.

When I enrolled in Mandarin classes I found that the first topic in the first semester was Pinyin. This leads to an important point:

By ED STEPHENS

Special to the Saipan Tribune

Visit Ed Stephens Jr. at EdStephensJr.com. All views expressed by the author are his/her own and do not necessarily reflect the opinion and stance of the Saipan Tribune.



Pinyin itself requires a bit of study. Although it uses our alphabet, some of its conventions for pronunciation are different than ours.

I found that abstract, textbook explanations helped a little, but not much. The best way to get a real handle on it was to plow through examples in usage, to note how each case worked, and then to compile a list of the rules that jibed the textbook rules with field experience. The whole list fits on one page, though I usually use a big font and let it bloat to two.

I've come to have a real appreciation for Pinyin since it has proven to be such a useful tool. But, again, as I've noted, there are other romanization methods, so there are dictionaries and word processors that use non-Pinyin alphabetical entries; these are, however, outside of my experience.

As for Saipan, many businesses that serve Chinese tourists have run, head first, into the hard fact that training sales staff to say a few basic phrases in Chinese is often a lot harder than training the staff to say a few basic phrases in Korean or in Japanese. Here and elsewhere, I've been on the management side of things where some sort of program had to be established for this stuff.

As for the Chinese phrases, the best solution I've come up with is to forget about getting a uniform level of training across the staff. It's not going to happen, or, at least, I've never seen it happen. It's better to instead find a few motivated workers who want to dig into studying the language. This is called leadership. Then throw some money at it. This is called investment.

With luck, your standouts can eventually become peer-leaders who can serve up some intelligible Chinese, which beats the likely alternative of having zero capabilities across the board. In the former case, Pinyin will probably be part of the learning gig, or maybe even the bedrock.

Pinyin has come to be the invisible bridge of Pacific communications. It carries a lot of traffic but it is seldom admired. So today is the day to offer some admiration, and well as appreciation and acknowledgment of its developer, Zhou Youguang.

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Lack of critical thinking

When we lack the ability to engage critical thinking, refuse to connect the dots, or simply fail to use common sense, the NMI sets the path for ill-conceived policies destined to inflict more harm than good.

In this connection, we again see the popular plan to raise the minimum wage as if the increase would fall from the blue skies of this hellish hole. Isn't it that it involves arithmetic rather than half-cocked moral narratives?

Best-selling author and columnist Larry Elder related in his piece, "Living wage is as wrongheaded as the minimum wage," that after all the studies and the "near-unanimous opinion of economists—and even after the negative real-world effect of the minimum..." it remains popular. He said that most proponents "don't know about the vast body of research that shows the harm."

He noted that two of the most well-known liberal economists have criticized the minimum wage and its twin, the living wage.

"Jonathan Gruber, the architect of Massachusetts' Romneycare and co-architect of Obamacare, said in 2011: 'Let's say the government rolled in and set a minimum wage. ... Workers want to supply more hours than firms want to hire. ... You end up with excess supply. And we call that excess supply 'unemployment.'"

The issue raises questions whether the planned increase is supported by a study. Did the study take into account Fitch's and Moody's assessments of the CNMI such as its debts, obligations and ability to pay. Did the studies say the CNMI's economy is poised for major economic growth?

Didn't Fitch just downgrade Imperial Pacific's bond rating three layers below normal bond level? How do you see this and isn't it a serious indicator that the economy may be headed south, if not already?

These are red flags that the elected elite must learn to read, comprehend and mull over as it braves juvenile plans to recklessly increase minimum wage. Yes, I've pounded the lack of familial income increase over the last 10 years. But the answer isn't in MW increase but healthy investments that spur wealth

and jobs creation. If this is missing, then any plan to increase wages and salaries is a perfect recipe to ruin what's left of the local economy. Did you get that pal?

Financial posture: The announcement last year of an additional \$43.3 million in new revenue was instantly wrecked by the admission of some \$53 million in the current administration's cumulative deficit. This doesn't include other long-term debts so conveniently skipped!

Was this deficit paid as mandated by the NMI Constitution or was it shoved aside until further notice? With suspect financial posture how does the NMI meet other debts and obligations?

The financial assessment by two credible global economic firms (Fitch and Moody's) are major red flags the nimble minds on the hill must mull over 24/7 with the view to saving some for that rainy day. Nothing in what we see as "improvement" is sure-footed. A lot rides on prevailing circumstances like teeny waves landing along the shore. None is supported by a fully thought-out plan by this administration beyond ad hoc disposition.

Is this troublesome? Definitely! Add the "solutions driven" team being taken aback by how its treasured holy grail in the casino industry is falling apart. Does the team have any clue what it means or "not yet, already?" Does it plan to stay home someday soon to reassess that there won't be any money for their junket trips too? Or is it another grand case of "not yet, already?"

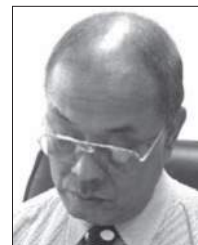
History with minimum wage: The shift from traditional to a money economy started gathering steam after the war. It was fine during the naval administration that paid \$.75 an hour. When the Trust Territory government took over, minimum wage took a nosedive to \$.16 an hour. This prompted the move for reunification with Guam, primarily because it paid \$1 an hour then.

Voters in Guahan soundly rejected the CNMI's aspiration in the late '60s. There was no mention about culture and other collateral issues. It was the dollar! We also never had any clear view how the NMI would pay the same salary even with reunification. It means it must come out of our own tax base, isn't it? It would be wrong to impose this cost on the backs of Guahan taxpayers, right?

By **JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.**

Special to the Saipan Tribune

John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands. All views expressed by the author are his/her own and do not necessarily reflect the opinion and stance of the Saipan Tribune.



In other words, it was a moral pleading that had nothing to do with arithmetic and source. It's the usual blurred vision that goodies like minimum wage simply falls out of the blue skies of paradise.

Well, last I checked there's Raffy and Biktot taking global junkets! Raffy is now cooking red rice in D.C. to feed Trump while Biktot is cockfighting in Manila as Arnie Pala` struggles to understand the latest bond ratings of IPI by Fitch and Moody's. *A`saina!* Pretty soon "nating maaaneee, lai!"

Loss of focus: Whether you're appointed or elected, you must take heed of what President Obama said in his farewell speech: Stay focused on your job so the consequence of your action is beneficial for the multitude.

Indeed, we're in self-denial that our financial posture is headed deeper south as investments contract beyond our wildest imaginings. Contraction of investments means far less, therefore, up pops far less in terms of jobs and wealth creation. It only deepens the economic hardship at home.

It means family income would take huge cuts, paralyzing their ability to live within common decency! Is this the unannounced vision of the Republican majority or alleged solutions driven team?

Some sense of mindfulness is in order to ensure our people are not relegated further into the abyss of below abject poverty conditions. Get that pal or "not yet, already?"

Eyewitness to democracy's orderly transitions—and a potential deal breaker

There is but one moment when the Oval Office is truly between its masters, under the command only of the constitutional spirit that has long made America the world's greatest democracy.

It occurs at precisely noon, on those infrequent quadrennial Jan. 20s when the people of the United States are transferring their presidency from one political party to another.

I have witnessed two of those rare moments, as the only person in the doorway of the Oval Office at precisely noon on Inauguration Day. Today, those recollections enable us to reflect on the essence of our democracy—and what seems to be missing this time around.

Jan. 20, 1977: A bright noontime sun glistens off a meringue-like snowy glaze spread across the Rose Garden outside; it pours through the French doors and windows and bathes the Oval Office in a surreal brilliance. Jerry Ford's large wooden desk stands emptied, polished and bare except for a pair of long stemmed pens standing in their holders. This cornerless room where history is routinely made is silent, except for a familiar voice emanating from a television in some nearby office: "I, Jimmy Carter, do solemnly swear..."

Nell Yates enters the room softly. She embodies the permanence of the presidency, having been a White House secretary for Eisenhower, Kennedy, Johnson, Nixon and Ford. She glances at the bare desk, shakes her head and disappears. Minutes later she is back, carrying Woodrow Wilson's "Life and Letters" and "The Papers of Alexander Hamilton." She stands them between two bookends on the president's desktop. "At least now it makes you want to come in and do some work," she says. Orderly and matter-of-factly, Americans transferred their presidency from a Republican to a Democrat.

Jan. 20, 1981: It is noontime and, just for the moment, the

Oval Office is at rest. Except for Dominador T. Julian, whose service goes back to Eisenhower. He is polishing a brass door-knob and listening to the same television set where, all morning, his last boss, Jimmy Carter, monitored TV news while working (unsuccessfully) to convince Iran to release their U.S. embassy staff hostages. Now, on the TV, Julian hears his new boss: "I, Ronald Reagan, do solemnly swear..."

Suddenly the stillness is shattered. A door swings open; five men in dark suits and ties start performing the furniture-rearranging precision drill, exactly as they rehearsed it. Silently, they pivot the sofas, end tables and a floor-based globe. They replace Cabinet Room portraits of Jefferson and Truman with Eisenhower and Coolidge. Lincoln, being a Republican, stays. A White House painter, anxious to please his new bosses, does last-minute touchups. Oops, he's forgotten to remove his Carter-Mondale button on his coveralls.

Carter had depomped the presidency; Reagan is all about re-pomping it. Minutes after the inaugural oath, Iran released its hostages. Reagan simply announced it. A frightful ordeal had ended as peacefully as our transfer of power from a Democrat to a Republican.

Fast-forward to Jan. 20, 2017: This doesn't seem to be the day power gets transferred—because in a real sense, this president-elect began making international policies weeks ago. Trump had the world reacting to his tweets for weeks, praising all things Putin (while flaring at suggestions that Russia's criminal stealing and leaking of Democratic emails helped him win). Trump tough-talked and taunted China as if geopolitics is just another big casino deal. And like a grade school bully, he spewed unrelated immaturities at his critics. When civil rights icon Rep. John Lewis said he wasn't a legitimate president, Trump attacked Lewis' Atlanta district as impoverished and crime-ridden (actually it's cosmopolitan

By **MARTIN SCHRAM**

Tribune News Service

Martin Schram, an op-ed columnist for Tribune News Service, is a veteran Washington journalist, author and TV documentary executive. Readers may send him email at martin.schram@gmail.com.



and thriving). When Meryl Streep attacked him for ridiculing a handicapped man, Trump called her a lousy actress.

Time out: While I respect and revere Lewis, I think he was wrong to say he'd boycott Trump's inauguration. Inaugurations aren't for the victors, they're how we honor our world's greatest democracy—regardless of the outcome.

But Trump's ridiculing of a disabled man deserves to be his ultimate deal-breaker. In December 2015, I wrote about how this was worse than all of Trump's other bullying. Anyone who saw Trump ridicule the physically disabled New York Times reporter Serge Kovaleski knows Trump has been lying ever since by insisting he did no such thing. In 2015, I quoted a woman (who has a disability) as saying of Trump: "He is a soulless man." And I asked: What does it tell us that the Republican Party had just made a soulless man its frontrunner?

In this inauguration week, we must again return to this affront we have all seen and deplored. If Trump ever wants our respect, he must start his presidency by apologizing, genuinely and publicly, to Serge Kovaleski.

Americans are decent people. We can never truly respect a president who childishly insists upon proving he is a hopelessly soulless man.

Business

Palacios crossing fingers that IPI completes project

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Acting governor Arnold I. Palacios remains hopeful that Imperial Pacific International Holdings, Ltd. will complete building its multi-million Imperial Pacific Resort on time despite a recent downgrade of the Hong Kong-based conglomerate’s credit rating.

It was reported last week that Fitch Ratings had downgraded Imperial Pacific’s rating after the international credit rating agency expressed concerns that IPI has yet to secure long-term funds for the construction of its integrated

resort at the Old Samoan Housing on Saipan.

Imperial Pacific Resort is the first phase of the company’s \$7.1-billion integrated resort development on Saipan. It also envisions building 20 hotels on the island that includes a kilometer-long shopping strip and the world’s largest waterpark.

Palacios is crossing his fingers that Imperial Pacific would follow through on these plans.

“We’re hoping that it [credit rating downgrade] would not impact the ongoing construction. We hope

that they’ll get financing. Of course, there’s always some concern. We can only be hopeful that they get over this and be able to finish the hotel and operate,” he said in an interview after Tuesday’s Commonwealth Advocates for Recovery Efforts meeting at the Office of the Governor.

The Senate president, who is acting governor as both Gov. Ralph DLG Torres and Lt. Gov. Victor Hocog are off-island, said if Imperial Pacific’s investment on Saipan stalls, government coffers could quickly dry up.

“First of all, there’s a possibility—I hope it doesn’t hap-

pen—that there will not be enough resources for the government. We’re hopeful that even with the Fitch [ratings] downgrade they will still be able to finance and complete the hotel.”

To get a better handle of the situation, Palacios and other senators are looking at meeting with the Commonwealth Casino Commission, which oversees the operations of Imperial Pacific.

“I don’t know about the Executive Branch, but I have talked with the members of the Senate and we’re thinking of calling on the casino commission to know what

the status is. We need to find out from the commission if there really is a need to be concerned,” he said.


In separate reports by Asian Gaming Brief and Global Gaming Expo Asia last Jan. 12, they said that Fitch downgraded IPI’s long-term foreign-currency issuer default rating from BBB (investment grade) to CCC (credit risk or speculative) four months ago. It also lowered IPI’s proposed U.S. dollar senior secured note issue from BB-EXP (moderate risk) to an expected B-EXP rating.

Fitch Ratings is one of three credit rating agencies that include Moody’s and Standard


& Poor’s. Fitch is the smallest of the three nationally recognized statistical organizations chosen by the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission and acts as a tiebreaker when Moody’s and S&P have similar ratings.

Although Imperial Pacific is on track to finish the casino resort on time, Fitch said long-term capital expenditure funds for Imperial Pacific Resort has still not been secured.

Fitch also cited the lack of licensed junket operators on Saipan. The Commonwealth Casino Commission has so far granted one provisional license to Big Bang Entertainment, whose clients are from Japan and South Korea.



Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Office of the Secretary of Public Works
2nd Floor Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan, MP 96950



INVITATION FOR BIDS
DPW/FHWA-17-IFB-001

ROAD MARKING & SIGNAGE UPGRADE ROUTE 21, ROUTE 24-EAST & ROUTE 27, TINIAN

Governor Ralph Dlg. Torres, and Lt. Governor Victor B. Hocog, through the Department of Public Works (DPW) is soliciting sealed bids for the Road Marking & Signage Upgrade Route 21, Route 24-East & Route 27, Tinian, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI).

The project package will be available in Electronic Files on January 6, 2017 at Technical Services Division, Department of Public Works, located on Second Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, San Jose, Saipan.

All interested bidders are also required to include Insurer Clearance Certification (ICC) in their bid packages in order to bid on this project. The ICC can be obtained at the Department of Commerce/Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC) on Capitol Hill.

Bidding procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations currently in effect."

Breach of Ethical Standard

- **Gratuities.** It shall be a breach of ethical standards for any person to offer, give or agree to give any employee or former employee, or for any employee or former employee to solicit, demand, accept, or agree to accept from another person, a gratuity or an offer of employment in connection with any decision, approval, disapproval, recommendation, preparation of any part of a program requirement or a purchase request, influencing the content of any specification or procurement standard, rendering of advice, investigation, auditing or in any other advisory capacity in any proceeding or application, request for ruling, determination, claim or controversy, or other particular matter, pertaining to any program requirement or a contract or subcontract or to any solicitation or proposal therefor. **NMIAC Section 70-30.3-725 (a)**
- **Kickbacks.** It shall be a breach of ethical standards for any payment, gratuity or offer of employment to be made by or on behalf of a subcontractor under a contract to the prime contractor or higher tier subcontractor or any person associated therewith as an inducement for the award of a subcontractor or order. **NMIAC 70-30.3-725 (b)**
- **Contingent fees.** It shall be a breach of ethical standards for a person to be retained, or to retain a person, to solicit or secure government contracts upon an agreement or understanding for a commission, percentage, brokerage or contingent fee, except for retention of bona fide employees or bona fide established commercial selling agencies for the purpose of securing business. **NMIAC 70-30.3-730**

There will be a Pre-bid Conference for this project on **January 24, 2017 10:00 a.m. local time** at Mayor Office, Tinian. The Prospective bidders are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the site. All questions regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than 4:30 p.m. local time on **February 7, 2017 to Mr. Anthony A. Camacho, Director of Technical Services Division**, 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan or fax to (670) 234-3547. Response to questions shall be shared with prospective bidders.

Prospective bidders should examine and review the invitation for bids with care. If it should appear to a prospective bidder that the performance of the work under the contract or any of the matters relative thereto is not sufficiently described or explained in the invitation for bids, or that any discrepancy exists between different parts of the invitation for bids, or that full intent of the invitation for bids is not clear, then the prospective bidder shall submit a written request for clarification no later than ten (10) working days before the scheduled bid opening at 4:30 pm to **Mr. Anthony A. Camacho, Director of Technical Services Division**, 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan or fax to (670) 234-3547.

The prospective bidder shall examine carefully the site of the proposed work and the invitation for bids before submitting a bid.

The Contracting Officer (CO) may, upon recommendation of the Contracting Officer's Technical Representative (COTR), issue an addendum notifying all prospective bidders known to have received an invitation for bids, or if issued after the deadline for submission of the notice of intention to bid, to those persons who submitted such notice, of any changes to the invitation for bids. The Department of Public Works will make every reasonable attempt to notify all persons who obtained the invitation for bids from the Technical Services Division by telephone to pick up the addendum or if the CO chooses, the addendum may be mailed or delivered personally or by facsimile machine. If the bid proposal requires the acknowledgment of addenda, the prospective bidder shall indicate the date of each addendum in the space provided. **It shall be the prospective bidder's responsibility to confirm the existence of any addendum by telephoning the COTR at (670) 234-9828/9838 no later than ten (10) Calendar days before the scheduled bid opening.**

Sealed bids must be marked "**DPW-17-IFB-001**". For bidders within the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Office of the Director of Procurement and Supply, located at the former Emergency Management Office, Ascension Drive, Building No. 1301, Capitol Hill, Saipan, no later than **10:00 a.m. local time, February 10, 2017**. Bidders located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional Seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to bid. Notices of Intent to bid must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than **10:00 a.m. local time, February 10, 2017**, and must be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to procurement@pticom.com. For bidders located outside the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than **February 10, 2017** and the BID documents must be received at the Office of the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than **February 21, 2017**. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

Bids will be publicly opened and read at the Office of the Director of Procurement and Supply, located at the former Emergency Management Office, Ascension Drive, Building No. 1301, Capitol Hill, Saipan, at **10:00 a.m. local time, February 24, 2017**. However, if no notices of intent to bid were received from bidders outside the CNMI, bids will be opened at **10:00 a.m. local time, on February 10, 2017**.

For bids greater than Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars (**\$25,000.00**) a bid security of fifteen (15%) of the bid amount must accompany the bid. **Bid security shall be on a bid bond, in cash, by certified check, cashiers check or other form acceptable to the government. A surety company shall hold the certificate of authority from the U.S. Secretary of the Treasury as an acceptable surety or other surety acceptable to the Attorney General. Surety requiring approval of the Attorney General must be pre-approved prior to bid submission.** Checks must be made payable to the CNMI Treasurer, with the name of the bidder and a notation on the face of the check: "Credit Account No. 44660". If a bid bond is submitted it must be accompanied by an Insurer Clearance Certification (ICC).

The bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be subject to a responsibility determination in conformance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations **§70-30.3-245**. The responsible bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be awarded a contract with the CNMI Government and will be required to deliver Performance and Payment bonds, each equal to 100% of the contract price for contracts greater than \$25,000.00. Prior to the execution of the contract, the selected contractor shall submit:

a) A current license from the bonding company showing that it has authority to issue bond in the CNMI, and
b) A certification from the bonding company that the unencumbered value of its assets (exclusive of all outstanding commitments on other bond obligations) exceed the penal amount of each bond.

A contractor submitting an unacceptable payment or performance bond may be permitted a reasonable time, as determined by the P&S Director, to substitute an acceptable bond prior to executing a contract.

Acceptable assets are only:


- 1) Cash
- 2) US Gov't Securities
- 3) Stocks and Bonds traded on US Security Exchange
- 4) Real Property owned in fee simple in US; and
- 5) Irrevocable Letters of Credit

Performance time for completion of this project is **Two Hundred Forty (240) calendar days** upon issuance of Notice to Proceed. Liquidated damages will be assessed according to Table 108-1 of the Standard Specifications for Construction of Roads and Bridges on Federal Highway projects, FP-03.


All bid documents received shall become the sole property of the CNMI Government. The Government reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any imperfection in a bid proposal that does not affect the elements of price, quantity, and delivery of the bid, in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

JAMES A. ADA
Secretary of Public Works

HERMAN S. SABLAN
Director of Procurement & Supply



Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Office of the Secretary of Public Works
2nd Floor Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan, MP 96950



INVITATION FOR BIDS
DPW/FHWA-17-IFB-002

ISLAND WIDE EMERGENCY REPAIR, SAIPAN

Governor Ralph Dlg. Torres, and Lt. Governor Victor B. Hocog, through the Department of Public Works (DPW) is soliciting sealed bids for the Island Wide Emergency Repair, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI).

The project package will be available in Electronic Files on January 20, 2017 at Technical Services Division, Department of Public Works, located on Second Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, San Jose, Saipan.

All interested bidders are also required to include Insurer Clearance Certification (ICC) in their bid packages in order to bid on this project. The ICC can be obtained at the Department of Commerce/Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC) on Capitol Hill.

Bidding procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations currently in effect."

Breach of Ethical Standard

- **Gratuities.** It shall be a breach of ethical standards for any person to offer, give or agree to give any employee or former employee, or for any employee or former employee to solicit, demand, accept, or agree to accept from another person, a gratuity or an offer of employment in connection with any decision, approval, disapproval, recommendation, preparation of any part of a program requirement or a purchase request, influencing the content of any specification or procurement standard, rendering of advice, investigation, auditing or in any other advisory capacity in any proceeding or application, request for ruling, determination, claim or controversy, or other particular matter, pertaining to any program requirement or a contract or subcontract or to any solicitation or proposal therefor. **NMIAC Section 70-30.3-725 (a)**
- **Kickbacks.** It shall be a breach of ethical standards for any payment, gratuity or offer of employment to be made by or on behalf of a subcontractor under a contract to the prime contractor or higher tier subcontractor or any person associated therewith as an inducement for the award of a subcontractor or order. **NMIAC 70-30.3-725 (b)**
- **Contingent fees.** It shall be a breach of ethical standards for a person to be retained, or to retain a person, to solicit or secure government contracts upon an agreement or understanding for a commission, percentage, brokerage or contingent fee, except for retention of bona fide employees or bona fide established commercial selling agencies for the purpose of securing business. **NMIAC 70-30.3-730**

There will be a Pre-bid Conference for this project on **February 08, 2017 10:00 a.m. local time** at the **Department of Public Works Conference Room 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center Office, Saipan**. The Prospective bidders are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the site. All questions regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than 4:30 p.m. local time on **February 24, 2017 to Mr. Anthony A. Camacho, Director of Technical Services Division**, 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan or fax to (670) 234-3547. Response to questions shall be shared with prospective bidders.

Prospective bidders should examine and review the invitation for bids with care. If it should appear to a prospective bidder that the performance of the work under the contract or any of the matters relative thereto is not sufficiently described or explained in the invitation for bids, or that any discrepancy exists between different parts of the invitation for bids, or that full intent of the invitation for bids is not clear, then the prospective bidder shall submit a written request for clarification no later than ten (10) working days before the scheduled bid opening at 4:30 pm to **Mr. Anthony A. Camacho, Director of Technical Services Division**, 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan or fax to (670) 234-3547.

The prospective bidder shall examine carefully the site of the proposed work and the invitation for bids before submitting a bid.

The Contracting Officer (CO) may, upon recommendation of the Contracting Officer's Technical Representative (COTR), issue an addendum notifying all prospective bidders known to have received an invitation for bids, or if issued after the deadline for submission of the notice of intention to bid, to those persons who submitted such notice, of any changes to the invitation for bids. The Department of Public Works will make every reasonable attempt to notify all persons who obtained the invitation for bids from the Technical Services Division by telephone to pick up the addendum or if the CO chooses, the addendum may be mailed or delivered personally or by facsimile machine. If the bid proposal requires the acknowledgment of addenda, the prospective bidder shall indicate the date of each addendum in the space provided. **It shall be the prospective bidder's responsibility to confirm the existence of any addendum by telephoning the COTR at (670) 234-9828/9838 no later than ten (10) Calendar days before the scheduled bid opening.**

Sealed bids must be marked "**DPW/FHWA-17-IFB-002**". For bidders within the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Office of the Director of Procurement and Supply, located at the former Emergency Management Office, Ascension Drive, Building No. 1301, Capitol Hill, Saipan, no later than **10:00 a.m. local time, March 01, 2017**. Bidders located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional Seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to bid. Notices of Intent to bid must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than 10:00 a.m. local time, **March 01, 2017**, and must be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to procurement@pticom.com. For bidders located outside the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than **March 01, 2017** and the BID documents must be received at the Office of the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than **March 10, 2017**. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

Bids will be publicly opened and read at the Office of the Director of Procurement and Supply, located at the former Emergency Management Office, Ascension Drive, Building No. 1301, Capitol Hill, Saipan, at 10:00 a.m. local time, **10:00 a.m. local time, March 15, 2017**. However, if no notices of intent to bid were received from bidders outside the CNMI, bids will be opened at **10:00 a.m. local time, on March 01, 2017**.

For bids greater than Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars (**\$25,000.00**) a bid security of fifteen (15%) of the bid amount must accompany the bid. **Bid security shall be on a bid bond, in cash, by certified check, cashiers check or other form acceptable to the government. A surety company shall hold the certificate of authority from the U.S. Secretary of the Treasury as an acceptable surety or other surety acceptable to the Attorney General. Surety requiring approval of the Attorney General must be pre-approved prior to bid submission.** Checks must be made payable to the CNMI Treasurer, with the name of the bidder and a notation on the face of the check: "Credit Account No. 44660". If a bid bond is submitted it must be accompanied by an Insurer Clearance Certification (ICC).

The bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be subject to a responsibility determination in conformance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations **§70-30.3-245**. The responsible bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be awarded a contract with the CNMI Government and will be required to deliver Performance and Payment bonds, each equal to 100% of the contract price for contracts greater than \$25,000.00. Prior to the execution of the contract, the selected contractor shall submit:

a) A current license from the bonding company showing that it has authority to issue bond in the CNMI, and
b) A certification from the bonding company that the unencumbered value of its assets (exclusive of all outstanding commitments on other bond obligations) exceed the penal amount of each bond.

A contractor submitting an unacceptable payment or performance bond may be permitted a reasonable time, as determined by the P&S Director, to substitute an acceptable bond prior to executing a contract.

Acceptable assets are only:

- 1) Cash
- 2) US Gov't Securities
- 3) Stocks and Bonds traded on US Security Exchange
- 4) Real Property owned in fee simple in US; and
- 5) Irrevocable Letters of Credit

Performance time for completion of this project is **One Hundred Eighty (180) working days** upon issuance of Notice to Proceed. Liquidated damages will be assessed according to Table 108-1 of the Standard Specifications for Construction of Roads and Bridges on Federal Highway projects, FP-03.

All bid documents received shall become the sole property of the CNMI Government. The Government reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any imperfection in a bid proposal that does not affect the elements of price, quantity, and delivery of the bid, in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

JAMES A. ADA
Secretary of Public Works

HERMAN S. SABLAN
Director of Procurement & Supply

Nation

Earth sets hottest year record for third-straight time

WASHINGTON (AP)—Earth sizzled to a third-straight record hot year in 2016, with scientists mostly blaming man-made global warming with help from a natural El Nino that's now gone.

Two U.S. agencies and international weather groups reported Wednesday that last year was the warmest on record. They measure global tempera-

tures in slightly different ways, and came up with a range of increases, from minuscule to what top American climate scientists described as substantial.

They're "all singing the same song even if they are hitting different notes along the way. The pattern is very clear," said Deke Arndt of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.



In this July 21, 2016, file photo, the sun sets beyond visitors to Liberty Memorial on Thursday, July 21, 2016, as the temperature hovers around 100 degrees in Kansas City, Mo.

AP

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950
Phone: (670) 237-6500 • Fax: (670) 234-5962
E-mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

NOTICE OF REGULAR MEETING

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 11, the Commonwealth Ports Authority hereby gives notice that a Regular Meeting of the Board of Directors will be held on Thursday, January 26, 2017, at 10:00 a.m. in the Tinian Gaming Commission's Hearing Room, located in San Jose Village on the island of Tinian. The following items are on the agenda for the above-referenced meeting:

<u>AGENDA</u>	
<p>I. PRELIMINARY MATTERS</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Call to Order 2. Roll Call <p>II. PUBLIC COMMENT(S)</p> <p>III. CORRESPONDENCES</p> <p>IV. COMMITTEE REPORTS</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Financial Affairs Committee 2. Airport Facilities Committee <p>V. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT</p> <p>VI. OLD BUSINESS</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. None <p>VII. NEW BUSINESS</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Bridge Investment Group (BIG) 2. Resolutions: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) with Memorandum of Agreement b. Maryann Q. Lizama c. Ronnie V. Simpson 3. American Red Cross Lease 4. POI Aviation Lease 5. SN-Five Enterprises – Option to Renew 6. Saipan Shipping Co., Inc. – Option to Renew 7. Sole Source for Access Control 8. Supplemental Budget Request 9. Echo Dock Rehabilitation, Development and Improvement 10. Saipan Aircraft Rescue and Fire Fighting (ARFF) Training Facility - Construction Management (CM) Amendment No. 9 <p>VIII. EXECUTIVE SESSION</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Legal Counsel Report: Legal matters/Litigation <p>IX. MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS</p> <p>X. ADJOURNMENT</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. Adoption of Agenda 4. Adoption of Minutes (December 21, 2016) <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. Seaport Facilities Committee 4. Personnel Affairs Committee

All interested persons are welcome to attend and to submit written or oral testimony on the above agenda items.

THOMAS P. VILLAGOMEZ
Acting Chairman, Board of Directors

January 19, 2017

NOAA calculated that the average global temperature for 2016 was 58.69 degrees (14.84 degrees Celsius)—beating the previous year by 0.07 degrees (0.04 Celsius).

NASA's figures, which include more of the Arctic, are higher at 0.22 degrees (0.12 Celsius) warmer than 2015. The Arctic "was enormously warm, like totally off the charts compared to everything else," said Gavin Schmidt, director of NASA's Goddard Institute of Space Studies in New York, where the space agency monitors global temperatures.

The British meteorological office determined that 2016 barely beat 2015 by 0.018 degrees (0.01 Celsius). The

World Meteorological Organization and other monitoring groups agreed that 2016 was a record, with the international weather agency chief Petteri Taalas saying "temperatures only tell part of the story" of extreme warming.

The figures are based on ground-level temperatures. Satellite calculations also showed that it was the warmest year, Schmidt said.

"This is clearly a record," he said. "We are now no longer only looking at something that only scientists can see, but is apparent to people in our daily lives."

Temperature records go back to 1880. This is the fifth time in a dozen years that the

globe has set a new annual heat record. Records have been set in 2016, 2015, 2014, 2010 and 2005.

Arndt said the 0.07 difference for 2016 is actually one of the largest NOAA has seen between record years. What's more important than any single record is the multi-decade "clear warming trend since the late 20th Century," said Arndt, NOAA's climate monitoring chief.

Schmidt said his calculations show most of the record heat was from heat-trapping gases from the burning of oil, coal and gas. Only about 12 percent was due to El Nino, which is a periodic warming of parts of the Pacific that change weather

globally, he said. Arndt put the El Nino factor closer to a quarter or a third.

El Nino disappeared last June. Even without it, Schmidt said this year probably won't break any records although it should be in the top five warmest.

NOAA calculated that last year was the warmest year on record in the oceans, the Arctic and North America. The average amount of ice in the Arctic Ocean reached a record low for 2016, Arndt said.

According to NOAA, 2016 was 1.69 degrees (0.94 degrees Celsius) warmer than the 20th Century average. The first eight months of 2016 all broke heat

See *EARTH* on Next Page

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

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**ENGINEERING DESIGN SERVICES
FOR CAVITY REPAIRS AT THE SAIPAN HARBOR**

Project No. CPA-SS-001-17

REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATION STATEMENTS

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) is soliciting statements of professional qualifications from interested consultants for Engineering Design Services for cavity repairs at the Saipan Harbor, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Project Number CPA-SS-001-17.

The project is being funded by CPA. This project is in accordance with CPA's Procurement Rules and Regulations and procedures shall be in full compliance with Section 40-50-202 Architect-Engineer Design and Construction Management Services.

The Request for Qualification (RFQ) Package is available at CPA's Office of the Executive Director, 2nd floor of the arrival terminal. No fee is required for the proposal package. Questions regarding this request for RFQ statements must be submitted to Ms. Wendi L. Prater, CPA Executive Assistant, at (670) 237-6500; faxed to (670) 234-5962 and/or emailed to wprater@cpa.gov.mp by no later than Friday, January 20, 2017, 4:30 p.m., local time.

At a minimum, the statements of professional qualification will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

1. Overall engineering design experience in the Pacific area and especially in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands – 20 points.
2. Engineering design experience related to seaport/harbor projects; – 40 points;
3. Level of proficiency in performing services promptly; and level of experience with the CPA projects – 15 points.
4. The general reputation of the firm in terms of quality of engineering design work experience, firm's ability to perform the services and the firm's professional integrity and competence – 15 points; and
5. Resumes of key personnel including current licenses and registrations of principal, if applicable – 10 points.

Interested Consultants shall submit one (1) original, four (4) copies and one (1) electronic version in .pdf on a compact disc of their statements of professional qualifications no later than 4:30 p.m., FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 3, 2017. Statements of qualification must be presented by a combination of both brochures and the use of current U.S. Government Standard Form 330.

Discussions may be conducted with at least three (3) of the firms regarding the agreement requirements and technical approach and selection made there from, in order of preference, of no less than three (3) firms determined to be the most highly qualified to perform the services required.

An agreement shall be negotiated with the highest qualified architect/engineer firm or company at a price determined to be fair and reasonable to the government. If a fair and reasonable price cannot be negotiated with the highest ranking qualified firm, then additional firms may be selected in order of competence and qualifications and negotiations continued until a fair and reasonable price is agreed upon.

All responses to this RFQ shall take into account any and all travel costs and taxes that will be charged to the consultant awarded an agreement for this project, including excise tax.

The CPA reserves the right to reject any or all statements of professional qualification for any reason, if in its sole opinion to do so would be in its best interest.

For the Commonwealth Ports Authority

/s/ **CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO**
Executive Director

Date: January 5, 2017

**PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT**

**REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
RFP NO.: RFP17-DFEMS-027**

SUBMISSION DATE: FEBRUARY 13, 2017

TIME: 10:00A.M.

**"SUPPLY OF TOWING AND STORAGE
SERVICES ON SAIPAN
FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF FIRE
AND EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES"**

THE COMPLETE SCOPE OF WORK MAY BE PICKED UP AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, CAPITOL HILL, LOCATED AT THE FORMER EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE, SECOND FLOOR, ASCENCION DRIVE, SAIPAN, MP 96950, DURING NORMAL WORKING HOURS.

QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS PROJECT MUST BE MADE TO LT. MANUEL A. CABRERA BY E-MAIL AT macabrera@dfems.gov.mp NO LATER THAN **4:30 P.M., LOCAL TIME, JANUARY 31, 2017.**

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS NMIAC 70-30.3725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES AND KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL PROPOSALS AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTION IN A PROPOSAL IF IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS. ALL PROPOSALS SHALL BECOME THE PROPERTY OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/s/ **CLAUDIO K. NORITA**
Commissioner
Department of Fire and
Emergency Medical Services

/s/ **HERMAN SABLAN**
Director,
Procurement and Supply

**PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT**

**REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
RFP NO.: RFP17-DFEMS-037**

SUBMISSION DATE: FEBRUARY 13, 2017

TIME: 10:00A.M.

**"SUPPLY AND INSTALLATION OF MOTOR OPERATED
ALUMINUM ROLL-UP GRILLES AT VARIOUS
STATIONS ON SAIPAN FOR THE DEPARTMENT
OF FIRE AND EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES"**

THE COMPLETE SCOPE OF WORK MAY BE PICKED UP AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, CAPITOL HILL, LOCATED AT THE FORMER EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE, SECOND FLOOR, ASCENCION DRIVE, SAIPAN, MP 96950, DURING NORMAL WORKING HOURS.

QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS PROJECT MUST BE MADE TO LT. MANUEL A. CABRERA BY E-MAIL AT macabrera@dfems.gov.mp NO LATER THAN **4:30 P.M., LOCAL TIME, FEBRUARY 03, 2017.**

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS NMIAC 70-30.3725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES AND KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL PROPOSALS AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTION IN A PROPOSAL IF IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS. ALL PROPOSALS SHALL BECOME THE PROPERTY OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/s/ **CLAUDIO K. NORITA**
Commissioner
Department of Fire and
Emergency Medical Services

/s/ **HERMAN SABLAN**
Director,
Procurement and Supply

ACROSS THE NATION

Former President George H.W. Bush and wife hospitalized

HOUSTON (AP)—Former President George H.W. Bush and his wife, Barbara, remain hospitalized in Houston, where he is in intensive care for pneumonia and she is being watched after complaining of fatigue and coughing. A family spokesman says the 92-year-old former president went into the ICU on Wednesday and underwent a procedure on his airway. Bush was stable and resting comfortably at Houston Methodist Hospital. The spokesman later told The Associated Press that doctors were happy with how the procedure went. Bush was first admitted to the hospital Saturday for shortness of breath. Barbara Bush, who is 91, had not been feeling well for a couple of weeks and decided to seek treatment. The spokesman described the move as precautionary.

Obama aims final messages at Trump

WASHINGTON (AP)—Barack Obama stepped be-

hind the White House podium for the last time Wednesday, fielding questions from the crush of journalists crammed in for the occasion and offering assurances to Americans watching on TV. But at times, his answers seemed aimed at an audience of one: the man who will replace him at noon Friday. Obama gently chided Donald Trump’s suggestion that the U.S. might end its sanctions on Russia over Ukraine in exchange for nuclear stockpile reductions, saying it was in America’s interest to make sure “we don’t confuse why these sanctions have been imposed with a whole set of other issues.” And, with Trump vowing to move the U.S. Embassy in Israel to Jerusalem, a move that could further inflame tensions in the Middle East, Obama warned that when “sudden unilateral moves” are made in the region, the results can be explosive. Obama also defended his decision to cut nearly three decades off convicted leaker Chelsea Manning’s prison term, a move Trump’s team has strongly criticized. Obama said the for-

wasn’t part of the NOAA or NASA teams. “Warming (is) nearly everywhere. The Arctic sea ice is collapsing. Spikes in fires from the heat. Heavy rainfall from more water vapor in the air.”

The effects are more than just records, but actually hurt people and the environment, said Oklahoma University meteorology professor Jason Furtado. They’re “harmful on several levels, including human welfare, ecology, economics, and even geopolitics,” he said.

EARTH

From Page 18

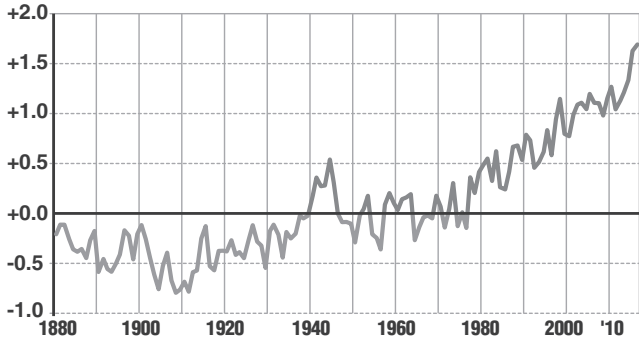
records. NASA has last year at 1.78 degrees (0.99 degrees Celsius) warmer than their mid-20th Century average and about 2 degrees warmer than the start of the industrial age in the late 19th Century.

“Of course this is climate change, it’s overwhelmingly climate change,” said Corinne Le Quere, director of England’s Tyndall Centre for Climate Change Research, who

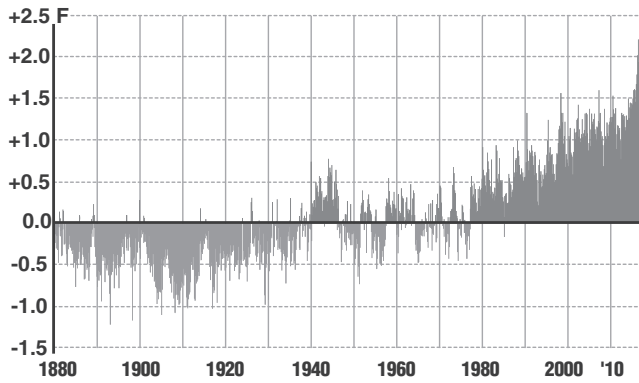
2016 warmest year on record

The average global temperature in 2016 was 1.69 degrees Fahrenheit above the 1901-2000 average, making it the warmest on record globally

Annual global temperature: Difference from 20th century average (1880-2016)



Global temperature change by month, Fahrenheit (1880-2016)



Source: NOAA, NASA
Graphic: Tribune News Service

mer Army intelligence analyst had served a “tough prison sentence” already.

First of 3 more storms hits California as drought retreats

LOS ANGELES (AP) — The worst area of drought in California has significantly narrowed to a small region northwest of Los Angeles that has stubbornly failed to benefit from Pacific storms that have drenched much of the state since the fall and were lining up again Wednesday. Just 2.1 percent of the state is

now deemed to be in “exceptional drought” — a far cry from a year earlier when that label applied to a vast region stretching from greater Los Angeles hundreds of miles up the state’s core to far northern counties. The last remaining region still in the U.S. Drought Monitor’s most dire category extends from northwestern Los Angeles County and southernmost Kern County westward across much of Ventura County to the south coast of Santa Barbara County.

In break with Trump,

EPA pick says climate change isn’t hoax

WASHINGTON (AP) — Donald Trump’s choice to head the Environmental Protection Agency said Wednesday that climate change is real, breaking with both the president-elect and his own past statements. In response to questions from Democrats during his Senate confirmation hearing, Oklahoma Attorney General Scott Pruitt said he disagreed with Trump’s earlier claims that global warming is a hoax created by the Chinese to harm the economic

competitiveness of the United States. “I do not believe climate change is a hoax,” Pruitt said. The 48-year-old Republican has previously cast doubt on the extensive body of scientific evidence showing that the planet is warming and man-made carbon emissions are to blame. In a 2016 opinion article, Pruitt suggested that the debate over global warming “is far from settled” and he claimed that “scientists continue to disagree about the degree and extent of global warming and its connection to the actions of mankind.”

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
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REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATION STATEMENTS FOR CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT SERVICES
FRANCISCO C. ADA/SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT PASSENGER LOADING BRIDGES REPLACEMENT PROJECT
AIP NO. 3-69-0002-87/XX

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) is soliciting statements of professional qualifications from interested firms to perform construction management (CM) services for replacement of passenger loading bridges at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, AIP No. 3-69-0002-87/XX, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The project is being funded by the U.S. Federal Aviation Administration and the Commonwealth Ports Authority. This project is in accordance with CPAs Procurement Rules and Regulations and procedures shall be in full compliance with Section 40-50-202 Architect-Engineer Design and Construction Management Services.

The Scope of Work (SOW) includes overall construction management services for the duration of the project. Details are available at CPAs Office of the Executive Director, 2nd floor of the arrival terminal. No fee is required for obtaining the proposal package.

Questions regarding this request for qualification (RFQ) statements must be submitted to Ms. Wendi L. Prater, Executive Assistant/Project Manager, in writing via hand delivery to the CPA Administration Office, via fax to (670) 664-3533 and/or emailed to wprater@cpa.gov.mp by no later than Friday, January 27, 2017, 4:30 p.m., local time.

At a minimum, the statements of professional qualification will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

1. Overall CM experience in the Pacific area and especially in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands – 30 points;
2. CM experience related to airport related projects funded in whole or in part by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA); – 30 points;
3. Level of proficiency in performing CM services promptly; and level of experience with the FAA regulations and requirements and AIP grants – 15 points;
4. The general reputation of the firm in terms of quality of CM work experience, firm's ability to perform the services and the firm's professional integrity and competence – 15 points; and
5. Resumes of key personnel including current licenses and registrations of principal, if applicable – 10 points.

Interested Consultants shall submit one (1) original, four (4) copies and one (1) electronic version in .pdf on a compact disc of their statements of professional qualifications no later than **4:30 p.m., FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 2017**. Statements of qualification must be presented by a combination of both brochures and the use of current U.S. Government Standard Form 330.

Discussions may be conducted with at least three (3) of the firms regarding the agreement requirements and technical approach and selection made there from, in order of preference, of no less than three (3) firms determined to be the most highly qualified to perform the services required.

An agreement shall be negotiated with the highest qualified construction management firm or company at a price determined to be fair and reasonable to the government. If a fair and reasonable price cannot be negotiated with the highest ranking qualified firm, then additional firms may be selected in order of competence and qualifications and negotiations continued until a fair and reasonable price is agreed upon.

All responses to this RFQ shall take into account any and all travel costs and taxes that will be charged to the consultant awarded an agreement for this project, including excise tax.

All consultants shall comply with all applicable FAA requirements under this federally funded project.

The CPA reserves the right to reject any or all statements of professional qualification for any reason, if in its sole opinion to do so would be in its best interest.

For the Commonwealth Ports Authority
/s/ CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO
Executive Director
Date: January 12, 2017

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950
Phone: (670) 237-6500 • Fax: (670) 234-5962
E-mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATION STATEMENTS FOR CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT SERVICES
BENJAMIN TAISACAN MANGLONA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT AIRFIELD MARKING & SIGNAGE REPLACEMENT PROJECT
AIP NO. 3-69-0003-26/XX

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) is soliciting statements of professional qualifications from interested firms to perform construction management (CM) services for replacement of the airfield markings and signage at the Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport, AIP No. 3-69-0003-26/XX, Rota, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The project is being funded by the U.S. Federal Aviation Administration and the Commonwealth Ports Authority. This project is in accordance with CPAs Procurement Rules and Regulations and procedures shall be in full compliance with Section 40-50-202 Architect-Engineer Design and Construction Management Services.

The Scope of Work (SOW) includes overall construction management services for the duration of the project. Details are available at CPAs Office of the Executive Director, 2nd floor of the arrival terminal. No fee is required for obtaining the proposal package.

Questions regarding this request for qualification (RFQ) statements must be submitted to Ms. Wendi L. Prater, Executive Assistant/Project Manager, in writing via hand delivery to the CPA Administration Office, via fax to (670) 664-3533 and/or emailed to wprater@cpa.gov.mp by no later than Friday, January 27, 2017, 4:30 p.m., local time.

At a minimum, the statements of professional qualification will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

1. Overall CM experience in the Pacific area and especially in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands – 30 points;
2. CM experience related to airport and airfield related projects funded in whole or in part by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA); – 30 points;
3. Level of proficiency in performing CM services promptly; and level of experience with the FAA regulations and requirements and AIP grants – 15 points;
4. The general reputation of the firm in terms of quality of CM work experience, firm's ability to perform the services and the firm's professional integrity and competence – 15 points; and
5. Resumes of key personnel including current licenses and registrations of principal, if applicable – 10 points.

Interested Consultants shall submit one (1) original, four (4) copies and one (1) electronic version in .pdf on a compact disc of their statements of professional qualifications no later than **4:30 p.m., FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 2017**. Statements of qualification must be presented by a combination of both brochures and the use of current U.S. Government Standard Form 330.

Discussions may be conducted with at least three (3) of the firms regarding the agreement requirements and technical approach and selection made there from, in order of preference, of no less than three (3) firms determined to be the most highly qualified to perform the services required.

An agreement shall be negotiated with the highest qualified construction management firm or company at a price determined to be fair and reasonable to the government. If a fair and reasonable price cannot be negotiated with the highest ranking qualified firm, then additional firms may be selected in order of competence and qualifications and negotiations continued until a fair and reasonable price is agreed upon.

All responses to this RFQ shall take into account any and all travel costs and taxes that will be charged to the consultant awarded an agreement for this project, including excise tax.

All consultants shall comply with all applicable FAA requirements under this federally funded project.

The CPA reserves the right to reject any or all statements of professional qualification for any reason, if in its sole opinion to do so would be in its best interest.

For the Commonwealth Ports Authority
/s/ CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO
Executive Director
Date: January 12, 2017

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REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATION STATEMENTS FOR CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT SERVICES
BENJAMIN TAISACAN MANGLONA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT PERIMETER FENCE REPLACEMENT PROJECT
AIP NO. 3-69-0003-27/XX

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) is soliciting statements of professional qualifications from interested firms to perform construction management (CM) services for replacement of the perimeter security fence at the Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport, AIP No. 3-69-0003-27/XX, Rota, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The project is being funded by the U.S. Federal Aviation Administration and the Commonwealth Ports Authority. This project is in accordance with CPAs Procurement Rules and Regulations and procedures shall be in full compliance with Section 40-50-202 Architect-Engineer Design and Construction Management Services.

The Scope of Work (SOW) includes overall construction management services for the duration of the project. Details are available at CPAs Office of the Executive Director, 2nd floor of the arrival terminal. No fee is required for obtaining the proposal package.

Questions regarding this request for qualification (RFQ) statements must be submitted to Ms. Wendi L. Prater, Executive Assistant/Project Manager, in writing via hand delivery to the CPA Administration Office, via fax to (670) 664-3533 and/or emailed to wprater@cpa.gov.mp by no later than Monday, January 30, 2017, 4:30 p.m., local time.

At a minimum, the statements of professional qualification will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

1. Overall CM experience in the Pacific area and especially in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands – 30 points;
2. CM experience related to airport and security related project requirements funded in whole or in part by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA); – 30 points;
3. Level of proficiency in performing CM services promptly; and level of experience with the FAA regulations and requirements and AIP grants – 15 points;
4. The general reputation of the firm in terms of quality of CM work experience, firm's ability to perform the services and the firm's professional integrity and competence – 15 points; and
5. Resumes of key personnel including current licenses and registrations of principal, if applicable – 10 points.

Interested Consultants shall submit one (1) original, four (4) copies and one (1) electronic version in .pdf on a compact disc of their statements of professional qualifications no later than **4:30 p.m., MONDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 2017**. Statements of qualification must be presented by a combination of both brochures and the use of current U.S. Government Standard Form 330.

Discussions may be conducted with at least three (3) of the firms regarding the agreement requirements and technical approach and selection made there from, in order of preference, of no less than three (3) firms determined to be the most highly qualified to perform the services required.

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All consultants shall comply with all applicable FAA requirements under this federally funded project.

The CPA reserves the right to reject any or all statements of professional qualification for any reason, if in its sole opinion to do so would be in its best interest.

For the Commonwealth Ports Authority
/s/ CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO
Executive Director
Date: January 12, 2017

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REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATION STATEMENTS FOR CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT SERVICES
TINIAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT AIRFIELD MARKING REPLACEMENT PROJECT
AIP NO. 3-69-0011-27/XX

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) is soliciting statements of professional qualifications from interested firms to perform construction management (CM) services for replacement of the airfield markings at Tinian International Airport, AIP No. 3-69-0011-27/XX, Tinian, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The project is being funded by the U.S. Federal Aviation Administration and the Commonwealth Ports Authority. This project is in accordance with CPAs Procurement Rules and Regulations and procedures shall be in full compliance with Section 40-50-202 Architect-Engineer Design and Construction Management Services.

The Scope of Work (SOW) includes overall construction management services for the duration of the project. Details are available at CPAs Office of the Executive Director, 2nd floor of the arrival terminal. No fee is required for obtaining the proposal package.

Questions regarding this request for qualification (RFQ) statements must be submitted to Ms. Wendi L. Prater, Executive Assistant/Project Manager, in writing via hand delivery to the CPA Administration Office, via fax to (670) 664-3533 and/or emailed to wprater@cpa.gov.mp by no later than Monday, January 30, 2017, 4:30 p.m., local time.

At a minimum, the statements of professional qualification will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

1. Overall CM experience in the Pacific area and especially in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands – 30 points;
2. CM experience related to airport and airfield related projects funded in whole or in part by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA); – 30 points;
3. Level of proficiency in performing CM services promptly; and level of experience with the FAA regulations and requirements and AIP grants – 15 points;
4. The general reputation of the firm in terms of quality of CM work experience, firm's ability to perform the services and the firm's professional integrity and competence – 15 points; and
5. Resumes of key personnel including current licenses and registrations of principal, if applicable – 10 points.

Interested Consultants shall submit one (1) original, four (4) copies and one (1) electronic version in .pdf on a compact disc of their statements of professional qualifications no later than **4:30 p.m., MONDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 2017**. Statements of qualification must be presented by a combination of both brochures and the use of current U.S. Government Standard Form 330.

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For the Commonwealth Ports Authority
/s/ CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO
Executive Director
Date: January 12, 2017

Asia

Were opportunities for clues from MH370 debris missed?

SYDNEY (AP)—Three nations shelled out around \$160 million and years’ worth of work on the underwater search for missing Malaysia Airlines Flight 370. The result: No plane. The only tangible—and arguably most important—clues into what happened to the aircraft have come courtesy of ordinary citizens, who bore the costs themselves.

The deep-sea sonar search for the vanished Boeing 777 was suspended on Tuesday after officials conceded defeat following the most expensive, complex aviation search in history.

But while search crews spent years trawling in futility through a remote patch of the Indian Ocean, people wandering along beaches thousands of kilometers (miles) away began spotting pieces of the plane that had washed ashore.

Those pieces have provided crucial information to investigators and prompted some to question whether Malaysia, Australia and China—who funded the hunt for the underwater wreckage—missed key opportunities by failing to organize coastal searches for the remnants that drifted to distant shorelines.

“It would have been good to have been getting people looking for debris,” said David Griffin, an Australian government oceanographer who worked on an analysis of how the debris drifted in a bid to pinpoint where the plane crashed. “I think that was a job that fell between the cracks of whose responsibility it was.”

Since the plane vanished on a flight from Kuala Lumpur to Beijing on March 8, 2014, more than 20 pieces of debris confirmed or believed likely to have come from the aircraft have turned up on beaches along the east coast of Africa and on islands including Madagascar. All of the parts have been found by local residents and tourists who stumbled upon them, and by Blaine Gibson, an American amateur sleuth who launched his own, self-funded hunt for debris after working with oceanographers to estimate where bits of the plane may have ended up.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Philippines, communist rebels resume peace talks in Rome
MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Philippine negotiators and communist guerrillas are set to resume peace talks in Rome, with the Maoist insurgents warning that alleged government violations of an accord on human rights may prompt them to end a monthslong ceasefire. The presidential adviser to the talks, Jesus Dureza, said the government is optimistic “with managed expectations” about the resumption of the Norway-brokered negotiations beginning Thursday in the Italian capital. Rebel chief negotiator Fidel Agcaoili was less optimistic, saying the guerrillas have raised a number of complaints, including alleged government breaches of a 1998 accord on respecting human rights and another pact on the safety of guerrilla consultants. Agcaoili says the complaints, including the failure to release nearly 400 detainees the rebels consider political prisoners, made extending a five-month ceasefire “untenable.”

Court denies a request to arrest Samsung’s de facto head
SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—A Seoul court on Thursday denied a request to arrest one of South Korea’s most powerful men, the heir to the Samsung Electronics juggernaut, in a setback to prosecutors investigating an influence-peddling scandal that toppled South Korea’s president. The Seoul Central District Court said that a judge concluded that there was not enough justification to detain the 48-year-old billionaire Samsung vice chairman, Lee Jae-yong, at this stage. The announcement, made around 5 a.m. local time, allowed Lee to return home after a long night. He had been waiting for the court’s decision at a detention center south of Seoul for more than 12 hours after a court hearing the previous day. Samsung said “the merits of this case can now be determined without the need for detention.”

DIVISION OF COASTAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

Caller Box 10007, Gualo Rai Center, Saipan MP 96950
TEL. NO. 664-8300 FAX NO. 664-8315

NOTICE OF APPLICATION

As of January 20, 2017

THE FOLLOWING IS A PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT OF COASTAL PERMIT APPLICATIONS RECEIVED BY THE DCRM OFFICE:

APPLICANT	DATE APPLICATION RECEIVED	APPLICATION PROJECT DESCRIPTION	LOCATION	TYPE	STATUS
1. Imperial Pacific International	11/14/2016 SS-2017-X-016	Habitat Restoration & Conservation Plan	Garapan, Saipan	Shoreline	Extended - Pending Submission
2. Hayden Corporation	12/27/2016 SWm-2017-X-021	Staging	Capitol Hill, Saipan	Wetland	Under Review-Extended
3. Marianas Enterprise Limited	12/30/2016 SWm-2017-X-022	Staging	Tanapag, Saipan	Wetland	Extended - Pending Submission
4. Sakura CNMI Corporation Dba. Sakura Marine Sports	12/23/2016 SLRm-2009-X-072	Marine Sports Activities	Garapan, Saipan	Lagoon & Reef	Approved, 01/04/2014
5. Sakura CNMI Corporation Dba. Sakura Marine Sports	12/23/2016 SLRm-2009-087	Marine Sports Activities	Garapan, Saipan	Lagoon & Reef	Approved, 01/04/2014
6. Sakura CNMI Corporation Dba. Sakura Marine Sports	12/30/2016 SLRm-2010-X-015	Marine Sports Activities	Garapan, Saipan	Lagoon & Reef	Approved, 01/04/2014
7. Island Marine Sports SLRm-99-X-279	12/30/2016	Marine Sports Activities	Garapan, Saipan	Lagoon & Reef	Approved, 01/18/2017
8. Micronesia Resort dba. Kensington Aqua Park	12/28/2016 SLR-2017-X-024	Aqua Park	San Roque, Saipan	Lagoon & Reef	Under Review*
9. IT&E	12/28/2017 SWm-2017-X-025	Telephone/Fiber Optic Cable Installation	Capitol Hill, Saipan	Wetland	Approved, 01/18/2017
10. Bridge Investment Group	12/30/2016 TPLm-2015-X-065 Amendment 2017-1	Staging	Tinian	Ports & Industrial	Under Review
11. Saipan Intl. Real Estate Development dba. Ocean Vista	01/04/2017 SMS-2015-X-010 Amendment 2017-1	Design Revision/Expansion	Capitol Hill, Saipan	Major Siting	Public Hearing - TBA
12. Luana Inc. dba Heart Of Gold Divers	01/17/2017 S/TRm-2006-X-041	Marine Sports Activities	Saipan & Tinian	Lagoon & Reef	Renewal – Under Review
13. Mac’s Marine	01/17/2017 SLRm-2008-X-004	Marine Sports Activities	Tanapag, Saipan	Lagoon & Reef	Renewal – Under Review
14. Auto Marine Incorporation	01/17/2017 SLRm-95-X-264	Marine Sports Activities	Tanapag, Saipan	Lagoon & Reef	Renewal – Under Review
15. MOI, LLC Island Turtle Tours	01/18/2017 SS/LR/PI/CH/W-2017-X-026	Sightseeing Tour	Saipan Lagoon	Multiple APCs	Under Review*
16. Rota Department of Public Works	09/28/2016 RMS-2016-X-086	Coral Quarry Pit (Mining & Operations)	Igua, Rota	Major Siting	Certified Complete 01/19/2017
17. Napu Outrigger Canoe Club	01/19/2017 SS/LR-2017-X-027	Marine Sports Activities	Killili Beach, Saipan	Multiple APCs	Under Review*
18. Cai Lingli dba. Proper Grand	11/3/2016 SMS-2017-X-010	Sugar King Hotel & Dormitory	Gualo Rai, Saipan	Major Siting	Approved, 01/19/2017
19. Cai Lingli dba. Proper Grand	10/14/2016 SMS-2017-X-003	Chalan Lamlau Dormitories	Chalan Lamlau, Saipan	Major Siting	Approved, 01/19/2017

§15-10-210 of the CRM Rules and Regulation requires all permit applications to be published in a newspaper for general circulation within the CNMI within 15 days of receipt of application. The list reflects recently received permit applications and those with a recent change in status. New applications are marked with an asterisk (*).

The Public is invited to submit written comments regarding any of the above projects for which a permit decision has not been issued. All permit comments should identify the project by application number. Your comments should be mailed or hand-delivered to the DCRM Office. All persons who desire a public hearing regarding any project may do so by submitting a written request for a public hearing to the DCRM Office within fourteen (14) days for minor permits (APCs) and proposed amended major sitings. Public Hearings are required for all new major siting projects. All public hearing notices are published in a local newspaper of general circulation. Residents of Rota and Tinian may submit comments and hearing requests to their local DCRM Coordinator. Persons wishing to retain the right to appeal a DCRM Permit decision must file a notice of appeal with the DCRM office within thirty (30) days of the issuance of the DCRM permit decision as provided in Part 200 § 15-10-235 of the DCRM Regulations.

MEETING NOTICE

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 11, the Marianas Visitors Authority, hereby gives notice that a **Regular Board of Directors Meeting** will be held on **Tuesday, January 24, 2017 at 9:00 a.m.** in the MVA Conference Room, San Jose Professional Building Saipan, MP 96950.

MEETING AGENDA

1) Preliminary Matters

1. Call to Order

2. Roll Call

3. Adoption of Agenda

4. Adoption of Minutes

a. Regular Board Meeting – December 07, 2016

2) Public Comments

3) New Business

1. Renewal of Tourist Exit Survey

2. Saipan Mayor’s Office Destination Enhancement Projects

3. Adoption of Fiscal Year 2017 Revised Projection

4. Island Protection Services Contract Renewal

4) Old Business

1. Travel Per Diem Policy Update

5) Miscellaneous/Announcements

1. Legislative Orientation Presentation

2. General Membership Meeting Date

6) Executive Session

7) Adjournment

/s/ Marian Aldan-Pierce
Chair, MVA Board of Directors

World

No word from Jammeh as midnight deadline arrives in Gambia

DAKAR, Senegal (AP) -- After more than two decades in power, Gambian President Yahya Jammeh faced the prospect of a military intervention by regional forces, as the man who once pledged to rule the West African nation for a billion years clung to power.

After a midnight deadline set by the West African regional bloc to step down, there was no word from Jammeh. But Mauritania's leader appeared to be making a last-ditch diplomatic effort, meeting with Jammeh and then flying to Senegal to meet with its leader and Gambia President-elect Adama Barrow.

Earlier, a military commander with the regional bloc known as ECOWAS announced that troops were positioning along Gambia's borders with Senegal.

"The mandate of the president is finished at midnight," declared Seydou Maiga Moro, speaking on Senegalese radio station RFM. "All the troops are already in place," he added, saying they were merely

waiting to see whether Jammeh would give in to international pressure to cede power to Barrow.

As midnight approached, Jammeh met with Mauritanian President Mohamed Ould Abdel Aziz on the crisis. The Mauritanian leader left Gambia shortly before midnight, telling Gambia state television that "I am now less pessimistic (Jammeh) will work on a peaceful solution that is in the best interest for everyone." He then went to the meeting at the Dakar airport in Senegal, state television there reported.

Thousands of Gambians have fled the country, including some former cabinet ministers who resigned in recent days. Hundreds of foreign tourists evacuated on special charter flights, though some continued to relax poolside despite the political turmoil. Gambia is a popular beach destination in winter, especially for tourists from Britain, the former colonial power.

The downtown area of the

Gambian capital, Banjul, was empty late Wednesday, with all shops closed. But there was no visible military presence apart from a checkpoint at the entrance to the city.

Tiny Gambia is surrounded by Senegal and the Atlantic Ocean. Late Wednesday, witnesses reported Senegalese soldiers deploying in the Senegalese Kaolack region, north of Gambia, and in the southern Senegalese region of Casamance.

In another sign of the international pressure, Nigeria confirmed a warship was heading toward Gambia for "training," and RFM radio reported that Nigerian military equipment had begun arriving in Dakar. Ghana also has pledged to contribute militarily.

The regional bloc was seeking the U.N. Security Council's endorsement of its "all necessary measures" to remove Jammeh. "There is a sense that the whole situation rests in the hands of one person, and it's up to that person, the outgoing president of the

Gambia, to draw the right conclusions," said Sweden's U.N. Ambassador Olof Skoog, the current council president.

The opposition has vowed to go ahead with Barrow's inauguration. It was unclear whether Barrow would take the oath at a Gambian Embassy outside the country or if he would return.

"Those who resist peaceful change, effective 12 midnight tonight, shall face definite consequences, to their peril," said Mai Ahmad Fatty, Barrow's special adviser, in a Facebook post Wednesday in which he urged Gambians to stay indoors. "Anyone with firearms tonight shall be deemed a rebel, and will certainly become a legitimate target."

Jammeh, who first seized power in a 1994 coup, has insisted that his rule was ordained by Allah. He initially conceded defeat after the December vote, but after reports emerged suggesting he could face criminal charges linked to his rule, he reversed himself a week later. He

said voting irregularities invalidated the results, and his party went to court seeking a new round of voting. The case has stalled because the supreme court currently only has one sitting judge.

Human rights groups have long accused Jammeh of arresting, jailing and killing political opponents, and there have been widespread fears for Barrow's safety. Tensions have been so high that Barrow has remained in the Senegalese capital since last weekend, at the advice of ECOWAS mediators. He was not even able to return to Banjul for his 7-year-old son's funeral Monday after the child was fatally mauled by a dog.

As other longtime West African strongmen have died or been forced to step down in recent years, Jammeh has remained a rare exception—even launching a campaign to anoint himself "King of Gambia."

In 2007, he claimed to have developed a cure for AIDS that involved an herbal body

rub and bananas. Alarming public health experts, he insisted AIDS sufferers stop taking antiretroviral medications.

Two years later, his government rounded up nearly 1,000 people it accused of being witches, forcing them to drink a hallucinogen that caused diarrhea and vomiting. Two people died, according to Amnesty International.

More recently, Jammeh seemed bent on increasing Gambia's isolation on the world stage. In 2013 he exited the Commonwealth, a group made up mostly of former British colonies, branding it a "neo-colonial institution."

He also issued increasingly virulent statements against sexual minorities, vowing to slit the throats of gay men and saying the LGBT acronym should stand for "leprosy, gonorrhea, bacteria and tuberculosis." And in October, Jammeh said Gambia would leave the International Criminal Court, which he dismissed as the "International Caucasian Court."



AP
People board the ferry leaving Banjul, Gambia, Wednesday Jan. 18, 2017.

WORLD BRIEFS

Mideast expects big changes under Trump

CAIRO (AP)—Donald Trump's all-but-dismissal of human rights as a foreign policy principle could land like an earthquake across a Middle East landscape beset by warring factions and beleaguered governments, with some players eyeing the prospect of once unimaginable new alliances. Syria is the foremost test of Trump's promise of a return to a hard-headed realpolitik and could quickly show whether America is truly abandoning promotion of democracy and the rule of law in a way that could reshape much of the region's post-Cold War, post-9/11 order. Trump has raised the possibility of a broad new U.S. partnership with Vladimir Putin's increasingly authoritarian Russia and has even hinted at aligning with Syrian President Bashar Assad, which would amount to a dramatic reversal from years of the Obama administration calls for Assad's ouster.

Anxious European leaders seek an early audience with Trump

WASHINGTON (AP)—European leaders, anxious over Donald Trump's unpredictability and kind words for the Kremlin, are scrambling to get face time with the new American president before he can meet with Russian President Vladimir Putin, whose provocations have set the continent on edge. One leader has raised with Trump the prospect of a U.S.-European Union summit early this year, and the head of NATO—the powerful

military alliance Trump has deemed "obsolete"—is angling for an in-person meeting ahead of Putin as well. British Prime Minister Theresa May is working to arrange a meeting in Washington soon after Friday's inauguration. For European leaders, a meeting with a new American president is always a sought-after—and usually easy-to-obtain—invitation. But Trump has repeatedly defied precedent, making them deeply uncertain about their standing once he takes office. Throughout his campaign and in recent interviews, Trump has challenged the viability of the EU and NATO, while praising Putin.

Russia, Turkey conduct joint airstrikes on IS in Syria

MOSCOW (AP)—The Russian military said Wednesday it has teamed up with Turkey to conduct joint airstrikes, coordinated with Damascus, against an Islamic State group's stronghold in northern Syria. It is the first acknowledgement of Russian cooperation in support of Turkey's offensive in the area. It is also the first incident of indirect coordination between the Turkish and the Syrian governments. Ankara has been calling for the ouster of President Bashar Assad and has supported the armed rebellion against him. Syrian officials have called Turkey's operations on Syrian territories an "occupation." In a sign of a possible new ground for cooperation in the area, U.S. defense officials said Tuesday the U.S.-led coalition have also carried

out attacks against IS in the same area—al-Bab, in the province of Aleppo—at a time when Turkish troops have struggled there since November. Lt. Gen. Sergei Rudskoi of the military's General Staff said nine Russian warplanes and eight Turkish jets have taken part in the strikes on the outskirts of al-Bab. He said the joint airstrikes were "coordinated with the Syrian side."

WikiLeaks' Julian Assange retreats from extradition pledge

PARIS (AP)—WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange retreated from his pledge to accept extradition to the U.S. if Chelsea Manning was granted clemency, arguing Wednesday via his lawyers that what he was really asking for was an immediate pardon for the ex-Army analyst. It was only last week that Assange raised eyebrows across the internet when he appeared to offer himself up as a kind of swap for Manning, the former private convicted of leaking the hundreds of thousands of documents that made WikiLeaks a household name. "If Obama grants Manning clemency Assange will agree to US extradition despite clear unconstitutionality of DoJ case," WikiLeaks said, apparently referring to the U.S. Department of Justice's continuing investigation into the radical transparency website. But when Obama granted clemency to Manning on Tuesday, setting a May release date that lops almost 30 years off her sentence, Assange's lawyers said it wasn't enough.

Off The Wall

Finally, an explanation of strange African ‘fairy circles’?

WASHINGTON (AP)—The forces behind the mysterious “fairy circles” that dot a desert in southern Africa do not appear to be supernatural, but they are intricate and complex.

The formations are circles of land dozens of feet wide that create a stunning pattern in the Namib desert and have mystified locals and scientists for ages. Inside the circles it looks like nothing is

growing, while plants grow well on the land surrounding them. Similar patterns have also been seen in Australia.

Paranormal powers like fairies and even dragon breath have been credited with creating them. But Princeton University ecologists have come up with a much less shadowy—and maybe less charming—explanation for what’s afoot. Using computer simulations, they say an intri-

cate combination of animals and plants cooperating and competing help explain the unusual patterns, according to a study in the journal *Nature* Wednesday.

Corina Tarnita, the study’s lead author, calls it “simple and elegant geometry on such enormous scale.”

Until this study, there were two competing explanations: Termites created the pattern or plants surrounding the

circles did it. Tarnita’s theory borrows from both. The giant circles—from six to 100 feet in diameter—are mostly from termites that cooperate with others in their colony, but compete against other colonies, she said. The unusual patterns seen between circles are plants that establish an orderly root system so they don’t compete too much for limited water.

“Out of all these processes,

where each is doing what they need to, emerges this large scale pattern,” Tarnita said.

The circular shape is a result of termites venturing as far as possible from their own colony’s nest without encroaching on a competing colony.

It’s not quite a conspiracy, says co-author Robert Pringle, because the creatures aren’t trying to make the patterns. “There’s no master plan, there’s no kind of blueprint for what’s supposed to emerge,” he said.

OFFBEAT BRIEFS

Raccoons recover at California zoo after cross-country ride

OAKLAND, Calif. (AP)—Baby raccoons that inadvertently hitched a cross-country ride to Northern California are recovering at the Oakland Zoo. Animal care authorities said Tuesday that in September a man had unknowingly transported the raccoons from Florida to Marin County in a moving truck. The truck had been burglarized while in Florida, allowing a pregnant raccoon to enter through a broken window and give birth. The man discovered the raccoons while unloading his truck. Five of six baby raccoons survived but were near death after being without food or water for days. Wildlife education center WildCare nursed the raccoons to health, but found they could not release the animals into the wild.

Foreclosed mall once valued at \$190M is auctioned for \$10

TARENTUM, Pa. (AP)—A Pennsylvania mall that was foreclosed on after its owners failed to repay \$143 million has been auctioned off for \$100. Wells Fargo Bank was owed the money from a 2006 loan and submitted the winning bid for the 1.1 million-square-foot Galleria at Pittsburgh Mills on Wednesday. The bank was acting as trustee for MSCI 2007 HQ11, the trust that bought the mall in suburban Frazer Township. Wells Fargo foreclosed last year on the mall, which opened in 2005. The mall once was worth \$190 million but recently was appraised at just \$11 million and is slightly more than half occupied. Pittsburgh Mills Limited Partnership defaulted on the loan.

Driver clocked at 91 mph in snowstorm wanted new car stereo

CONCORD, N.H. (AP)—New Hampshire State Police say a driver clocked at 91 mph during a snowstorm said she was late for an appointment to have a new car stereo installed. Police say they stopped 21-year-old Anastacia Hocking, of Laconia, on Interstate 93 in Concord on Wednesday morning. The highway was covered with snow and slush. Speed limits in Concord range

from 55 to 65 mph on I-93. But state police had reduced speeds to 45 mph because of the storm. Hocking was arrested on a reckless driving charge and is scheduled to be arraigned March 3. It wasn’t immediately known if she had a lawyer, and a phone number couldn’t be found for her.

Coffee and a slice? 7-Eleven launches breakfast pizza

IRVING, Texas (AP)—7-Eleven is offering a breakfast pizza. The convenience store chain says that it combines the convenience of eating leftover pizza for the first meal of the day with traditional breakfast foods. The chain announced the creation Tuesday. It has a biscuit crust topped with bacon, sausage, ham, scrambled eggs, cheese and cream gravy. 7-Eleven vice president Nancy Smith bills it as “a hearty option for customers craving a warm breakfast.” The Irving, Texas-based company says hot pizza has become one of its biggest ready-to-eat sellers, and mornings are the busiest time of day in its stores. During test runs, 7-Eleven says the breakfast pizza became its second-most popular pizza with customers.

Video of giant alligator draws crowds to Florida preserve

LAKELAND, Fla. (AP)—Video of a massive alligator caught walking through a Florida nature reserve in front of stunned onlookers has prompted crowds of people hoping to catch their own glimpse. The video taken by a visitor to the Circle B Bar Reserve on Sunday shows the gator estimated to be about 12-feet long lumbering across a trail. WFLA-TV reports officials are concerned the increased attention brought on by the video could pose a danger to the gators. Polk County Natural Resources Director Jeff Spence says they’ve already asked one person to leave who ran off a trail hoping for a picture of the animal. If a person is involved in an incident with a gator, Spence says the animal will most likely have to be killed. He says they don’t want to have to do that “because someone is doing something they shouldn’t.”

IN CELEBRATION OF HIS NEW LIFE

† Pedro Babauta Camacho

BORN TO LIFE: DECEMBER 7, 1945 CALLED TO ETERNAL LIFE: JANUARY 16, 2017

In his new life, he now joins his:

Mother and Father: †Nicolasa Babauta & †Juan N. Camacho
Mother and Father-in-Law: †Dolores Castro & †Francisco Cruz; †Esteban & †Carmen Reyes; †Felix C. & †Dora Laoyan
Wives: †Maria Elisa Reyes Camacho & †Dolores Cruz Camacho
Brothers/Sisters & In-Law: †Regina C. & †Jose Terlaje, †Juan B. & †Maria S. Camacho, †Antonia C. & †Manuel Sablan, †Antonio B. & †Remedio S. Camacho, †Pedro B. Camacho, †Soledad B. Camacho, †Rita B. Camacho, †Marilou L. Camero, †Maximo C. Cruz, †Juan C. Cruz, †Daniel Cruz, †William S. Reyes, †Manuel S. Reyes.
Son: †Pedro Camacho, Jr.

And will forever be remembered in the hearts and lives of his:

Wife: Jeanette Laoyan Camacho

Children and their families:

- **Evonne C.** & Lee Cabrera (Matthew/Micaela & Children, Maria, Prudencio, Martha Lee)
- **Sylvan R.** & Frances A. Camacho (Tanya & Taelani)
- **Geraldine C.** & Diego Villagomez (Valerie/Maximo & Children, Jordan & Children, Lisa/Kieran & Children, Jack John/Stephanie, Isabel, Jean Nailen, Geridi)
- **Daisie Mae C.** & Lawrence Junior Renguul (Tristan/Kimberly & son, Lance)
- **June Nickie C.** & Joe Mapusua (Okalani)
- **April Ling C. Lafary** (Jovan, Aleina, Jacob)
- **Jude Peter C.** & Zaidel Camacho (Jaydon Jude, Jonathan, Zaira, Jude Peter II)
- **Paul L.** & Melva Bulagay (Shaun & Saquila)

Brother: Jose B. & Jessica P. Camacho & Children

Brothers & Sisters-in-Law:

- Raymond S. & Marakita Reyes & Children
- Juan S. & Tina Reyes & Children
- Estaban S. & Yolanda Reyes & Children
- David S. Reyes & Children
- Edward S. Reyes & Children
- George & Florentina R. Fleming & Children
- Diana R. & Joseph Sasamoto & Children
- Andrew S. Reyes
- Richard S. Reyes & Children
- Helen B. Cruz & Children
- Anne Cruz & Mike Blas & Children
- Antonio C. & Ignacia Cruz & Children
- Basilio & Erlinda L. Aspong & Children
- Romy & Jane L. Acuirre & Children
- Leonardo & Rose Ann Laoyan & Children
- Wilfredo Laoyan & Children
- Armando & Annalyn L. Macrohon & Children
- Ednuiend & Dorothy L. Acong & Children
- Ronnie Laoyan
- Lillian S. Reyes & Children
- Virginia S. Reyes & Children

He will also be greatly missed by his God-Children, numerous nieces & nephews, cousins, classmates and friends.

Nightly Mass of the Christian Eucharist is being offered at 6:00pm and rosary follows immediately after at San Roque Church, Saipan.

Funeral Service will be held on Tuesday, January 24, 2017. Our Beloved †Pedro will be escorted from Nuestra Senora dela Paz Memorial Chapel to San Roque Church at 7:30am followed by Responso Service and Holy Rosary at 8:00am.

Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 11:00am and Interment Service will follow at Tanapag Cemetery where he will be at a peaceful rest.

Thank you for your prayers,
 Jeanette Laoyan Camacho, Children and Families

Science & Technology

Study illustrates Facebook's growth as campaign news source

NEW YORK (AP)—Donald Trump and Hillary Clinton voters had different media diets, but a study finds common ground in Facebook as

an important news source—even if their individual feeds bore little resemblance to each other's.

Facebook was the top non-

television source for election news cited by supporters of both candidates, according to a survey by the Pew Research Center. The social media site's import as a driver of political news has been underscored by the lingering controversy of people using it to spread false news stories.

Eight percent of Clinton voters and 7 percent of Trump

voters named Facebook as their main source of election news, Pew said.

"That was a pretty important finding," said Jeffrey Gottfried, senior researcher at the Washington-based think tank.

Facebook doesn't produce news; members share stories from a multitude of sources and their news feeds tend to reflect the politics of their Facebook friends.

With a multitude of web sites serving fake news stories with no basis in fact, Facebook announced last month that it would partner with outside fact-checkers to flag particularly egregious examples that are spread on the social media site.

While other digital brands like Breitbart News, BuzzFeed, the Drudge Report and the Huffington

Post received plenty of publicity during the campaign, they received little attention from the voters surveyed by Pew.

Forty percent of Trump voters cited Fox News Channel as their main source of campaign news, the winner by a huge margin. The second most-cited news source by Trump supporters was CNN, with 8 percent.

Netflix's DVD service shrinking

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—Originally cast in a starring role, Netflix's original DVD-by-mail service has been reduced to a bit player—one that may eventually get killed off as the company focuses on its booming video streaming service.

Netflix's fourth-quarter earnings report released Wednesday provided the latest glimpse at the DVD service's descent into oblivion as the streaming service hogs the spotlight.

The DVD service shed 159,000 subscribers during the final three months of last year to end December with 4.1 million customers. That's an 11-year low for a format that

gave Netflix its initial shot at stardom, allowing it out-innovate and outmaneuver Blockbuster Video, then the king of home-video rentals.

Now, though, the DVD service operates mostly as an afterthought that caters to a shrinking audience of die-hards who prefer to watch movies and TV shows on discs instead of streaming or downloading them onto a mobile gadget.

Meanwhile, Netflix's streaming service has been reshaping the world of entertainment, attracting converts to the convenience of streaming video at any time on any device with a high-speed internet connection.

TECH Q&A

Vista updates aren't the real problem

By **STEVE ALEXANDER**
STAR TRIBUNE (MINNEAPOLIS)

Q: I read in your column that Windows 7 isn't updating properly (see tinyurl.com/zzhdyf). Do you know why I can't update my PC's Windows Vista 64-bit operating system?

I'd like to update my PC before Microsoft stops supporting Windows Vista this April. But I haven't received an update since mid-July of last year, and the software last checked for updates in early August.

I tried manually searching for new updates, but Windows Update ran for two hours without finding anything. What should I do?—Joseph Umphrey, Maple Grove, Minn.

A: Don't worry too much about fixing Windows Update. You need to get a new PC, and soon.

Why? On April 11, Microsoft will stop providing security updates for Windows Vista, which will leave you vulnerable to hackers. Updating your Windows Vista PC now won't prevent that.

Your best option is to buy a new or refurbished Windows 7 PC, which will receive security updates until Jan. 14, 2020, or a new Windows 10 PC that will continue getting security updates until at least Oct. 14, 2025.

In the meantime, try fixing Update in Windows Vista by

downloading and installing update KB3216775. It's the Vista update for "x64-based systems" at tinyurl.com/z8v-vl4m.

Q: My iPhone 6 became locked after I installed an update. I don't recall having a password, so how can I get the phone unlocked? Will unlocking the phone delete the information stored on it?—Shirley Holden, Slidell, La.

A: You won't lose any data with this alternative update method that also unlocks the phone. Data is only erased during a different operation called a "factory restore."

Download the newest version of iTunes to your computer, then connect the phone to the computer via USB cable. You will get a message that the phone is in recovery mode. It will ask whether you want to update the phone or restore it; choose update. The iTunes program will then download the update and the phone will install it.

During that process, you may be questioned about "two-factor authentication," which is, in effect, an optional double-password system. Choose to skip that step.

Steve Alexander covers technology for the Minneapolis Star Tribune. Readers may write to him at Tech Q&A, 425 Portland Ave. S., Minneapolis, Minn. 55488-0002; email: steve.j.alexander@gmail.com. Please include a full name, city and phone number.

From Our Hearts To Yours

we extend our sincerest and most heartfelt appreciation to our many relatives and friends, from near and far, who stood by our side and comforted us with inspirational words and thoughts, supported us in so many ways, extended much kindness and most especially embraced us with much love as we endure the pain of loss of our **dearly beloved mother, grandmother and great-grandmother.**

† Rita Julia DeLeon Guerrero Pangelinan Villagomez

We thank our Lord for our **dearly beloved's** gift of life. While she lived a happy and fulfilled life, her warm and pleasant personality, voice, laughter and jokes will be greatly missed and her compassion to extend a helping hand to those in need will not fade as she will continue to live on in our hearts and in the hearts of those whom she had touched. Her peaceful spirit shall be our guide and inspiration as we live each day to achieve our dreams.

Un dangkulo na Si Yu'us Ma'ase to Bishop Ryan and members of the Clergy for your prayers and services; to the Olomwaay Family Choir for gracing us with your music; to Tan Ko Palacios and the altar servers for your services; Blossoms Floral Shop for all the beautiful flowers and services; Auntie Mag's Catering; Shirley's Coffee Shop & Restaurant and Borja Funeral Home. To the doctors and nurses of the Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation, thank you for your untiring services. We are forever grateful to our **dearly beloved's** caretakers who so unselfishly and with much patience attended to her needs. To our many relatives and friends who joined us at the daily masses of intention, Si Yu'us Ma'ase.

May each day bring us closer to God and be thankful for all that we are blessed with. As we go our separate ways, it is our fervent prayer that our Lord will continue to pour his grace and blessings upon us all the days of our lives.

**Joaquina Angelina/James and children
Kevin Joseph/Lina and children
Timothy Lewis and children
Rowena Patricia/Jesus and children**

Life & Style

Alanis Morissette manager admits to \$4.8M theft from singer

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The former business manager for Alanis Morissette admitted embezzling more than \$7 million from the singer and other celebrities and agreed to plead guilty to federal charges, prosecutors said Wednesday.

Jonathan Todd Schwartz, 48, of Los Angeles, was charged with wire fraud and filing a false tax return for failing to report the embezzled funds, prosecutors said.

Schwartz admitted stealing nearly \$5 million from Morissette between May 2010 and January 2014. He used the money personally and falsely listed the cash withdrawals as “sundry/personal expenses” to

cover up the crime.

When confronted about the theft, Schwartz lied and said he invested the money in an illegal marijuana growing business, prosecutors said.

Schwartz also admitted to stealing \$2.3 million from five other clients who were not named in court documents or disclosed by attorneys in the case.

Defense lawyer Nathan Hochman said Schwartz had fully cooperated with investigators and accepted responsibility.

His plea deal calls for a sentence between four and six years in federal prison, though a judge could sentence him up to 23 years on the charges.



This June 20, 2014 file photo Alanis Morissette arrives at the 4th Annual Production Of The 24 Hour Plays After-Party in Santa Monica, Calif.

Schwartz had offered financial guidance to some of the biggest stars while working at GSO Business Management,

a firm that touts its relationship on its website with entertainers such as Katy Perry, 50 Cent and Tom Petty.

Schwartz, who no longer works there, was said to represent Beyonce and Mariah Carey, who both appeared at a fundraiser last year in support of a heart disease charity he founded.

The embezzlement was discovered after Morissette took her business elsewhere and her new money manager discovered millions of dollars missing and contacted GSO, according to lawsuits filed against Schwartz.

GSO reviewed Schwartz's other work and found the other thefts, said GSO attorney Chris Reeder, who sued Schwartz after he was removed from the firm.

“This was shocking and disappointing,” Reeder said. “The company is very happy he’s being brought to justice and held accountable for his actions.”

Reeder said GSO has since repaid all the money he stole from clients. The firm’s pending lawsuit against Schwartz said he used the money to fuel a lavish lifestyle that included a \$50,000 trip to Bora Bora and a \$75,000 debt at a Bahamas casino.

Morissette settled her suit against Schwartz and the firm, according to a joint statement issued last year. Her publicist had no comment Wednesday.

Schwartz is scheduled to appear Feb. 1 in U.S. District Court on the criminal charges.

Jennifer Lopez: NBC’s ‘Bye Bye Birdie’ evokes stage roots

PASADENA, Calif. (AP)—Jennifer Lopez says NBC’s version of “Bye Bye Birdie” will bring the musical back to its stage roots.

The story was somewhat “watered down” in the 1963 movie in which Janet Leigh played the role originated by Chita Rivera on Broadway in 1960, Lopez told a TV critics’ meeting Wednesday.

In the play, Rivera’s Rose encounters resistance from her boyfriend’s mother because she doesn’t want her son marrying someone with Puerto Rican roots, Lopez said.

That dynamic will be part of the live TV musical airing later this year, Lopez said. So will her character’s assertiveness about trying to steer her partner toward

marriage, the actress said.

Lopez, who’s called “Bye Bye Birdie” a childhood favorite, said it’s a “great part for me to do. So here we go.”

She’s a busy woman, both on and off camera. Lopez stars in and is a producer for NBC’s police drama “Shades of Blue” and is a producer-judge on the network’s upcoming competition series, “World of Dance.”

McCartney files lawsuit against Sony/ATV over copyright

NEW YORK (AP)—Paul McCartney says he wants his music to get back to where it once belonged.

McCartney filed a lawsuit in federal court in Manhattan on Wednesday against Sony/ATV over copyright ownership of the many hit songs he wrote with John Lennon as part of The Beatles.

The copyrights were famously bought by Michael Jackson in 1985 and then fully sold over to Sony/ATV following his death. McCartney has long wanted the copyrights, and the filing says he has sent notice to Sony/ATV saying that he will claim them back under a provision of U.S. copyright law that makes that

possible after a certain time.

The first song eligible to be claimed back is “Love Me Do,” in October 2018. The rest of the catalog would follow in years after, ending in 2026.

McCartney wants a ruling to say his claiming them doesn’t represent a legal breach of any contract or publishing agreement that Sony/ATV could use against him.

“Defendants have attempted to reserve their rights to challenge Paul McCartney’s exercise of his termination rights on contractual ground,” the filing says.



McCartney

It adds, “A judicial declaration is necessary and appropriate at this time so that Paul McCartney can rely on quiet, unclouded title to his rights.”

Sony/ATV said it had “the highest respect” for McCartney.

“We have collaborated closely with both Sir Paul and the late John Lennon’s Estate for decades to protect, preserve and promote the catalog’s long-term value,” the company said, adding that it was “disappointed” over the filing of the lawsuit, which it said is “unnecessary and premature.”

Obama praised for bridging gap between hip-hop, politics

ATLANTA (AP)—Not only is President Barack Obama the nation’s first black president, but it’s safe to say he has been America’s first hip-hop commander-in-chief.

Obama embraced hip-hop more than any of his predecessors: He’s referenced Jay Z’s lyrics and Kanye West in speeches, released playlists on Spotify that included Nas, Chance the Rapper, Mos Def and Method Man, and was caught dancing to Drake’s “Hot Line Bling” at a White House event.

And in a recent televised concert celebrating the opening of the National Museum of African American History and Culture, Obama was shown rapping along when Public Enemy’s Chuck D performed “Fight the Power.”

Ice Cube called Obama an anomaly.

“It will probably be a long time before we see another president do something like this,” the Hall of Fame rapper

said. “It was kind of a now-or-never thing.”

Throughout his presidency, which ends when President-elect Donald Trump takes office on Friday, Obama paved a way for several rap stars to enter the White House for political discussion and musical performances.

Concerts have taken place at the White House since the 1800s when President John Adams was the first occupant. A few rappers, such as Run-DMC, visited the mansion to meet previous presidents over the years.

But the Obama administration gave them a prominent role. In 2011, Common performed poetry at an event at the White House, though Big Sean’s 2014 performance is considered by some to be the first true rap performance at there, when he joined Ariana Grande for “Right There.”

Since then, a barrage of rappers have taken the stage there, including Wale and

Kendrick Lamar, whom Obama has praised often (he cited Lamar’s “How Much a Dollar Cost” from the rapper’s black-empowerment album “To Pimp a Butterfly” as his favorite song of 2015).

In November, BET saluted the Obamas with a star-studded concert celebrating a mixture of gospel, R&B and rap music; the president and first lady Michelle Obama joyously danced as De La Soul rapped their classic “Me Myself and I.” Earlier this month, several hip-hop artists including Wale, Chance the Rapper and J. Cole took part in another private farewell jam at the White House.

Obama held up flash cards as “Hamilton” creator Lin-Manuel Miranda performed a freestyle rap in Rose Garden area of the White House. Mrs. Obama even got into the rap act, performing a comedic one with former “Saturday Night Live” star Jay Pharoah to promote her college initiatives.

We, the family, of the late
† Antonio Villagomez Iginoef

Would like to thank everyone for their unwavering support as we mourn the loss of our beloved husband, father, and grandfather.

Words cannot adequately express our profound gratitude and sincere appreciation to all our family, relatives and friends for all the kind words of comfort and prayers we received during this difficult time. And most especially to the Medical Referral Office from here and abroad, Doctors, nurses from Saipan, Guam and the Philippines Asian Hospital who assisted him during his illness. Your love has given us the courage and strength to accept the will of our Lord. We will forever be grateful and will continue to keep you in our hearts and prayers.

With love and gratitude,
Terry C. Iginoef, children and grandchildren,
Also from the Villagomez, Iginoef and Cabrera families.

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS**Harry Winston jewelry store robbed in French Riviera**

PARIS (AP)—A French official says a robber with a hand grenade and an automatic handgun has stolen diamond necklaces and other jewelry from a Harry Winston store in the French Riviera city of Cannes. Alain Guimbard, a deputy prosecutor in nearby Grasse, said Wednesday that the robber gained entry to the luxury jeweler on the seaside avenue La Croisette by pretending to be a customer. Guimbard told The Associated Press the robber then forced employees to give him diamond jewelry from a display window and other pieces. The holdup lasted only a few minutes. Guimbard says the robber escaped and no one was injured. The stolen merchandise is estimated to be worth 15 million euros (\$16 million.)

Harry Winston is a New York-based jeweler that often adorns actresses at the Academy Awards.

Washington U. class focuses on Kanye West

ST. LOUIS (AP)—A new course at Washington University in St. Louis is focused on the world of Kanye West. The St. Louis Post-Dispatch reports that 75 students are registered for "Politics of Kanye West: Black Genius and Sonic Aesthetics," which began this week. There's a waiting list to get in. The professor, Jeffrey McCune, says he course focused on the rapper, producer and fashion designer offers a way for students to connect issues of politics, race, gender, sexuality and culture. It's not the first college course about West. Georgia State University offered one in 2015, and a 2014 course at the University

of Missouri focused on West and Jay-Z. McCune says the court will neither fawn over West's music nor be an exercise in bashing him.

President-elect Donald Trump escalates Tom Ford fashion dis

The Wynn Las Vegas hotel has stopped selling Tom Ford cosmetics and sunglasses and President-elect Donald Trump declared on television it is because of the designer's dis over dressing his wife, Melania. Michael Weaver, spokesman for the hotel, confirmed it removed Ford's lines of those items from its

stores over the weekend, but declined to say why. Trump said in an interview that aired Tuesday night on Fox News Channel's "Fox & Friends" that hotel owner Steve Wynn "said he thought it was so terrible what Tom Ford said, that he threw his clothing out of his Las Vegas hotel." Ford has said he declined to dress Melania Trump years ago, saying "she's not necessarily my image." Trump told Fox his wife never asked Ford to dress her as first lady and "doesn't like" Ford or his designs. "I'm not a fan of Tom Ford, never have been," Trump added.

Bill O'Reilly sticks up for 'Old School' in next book

NEW YORK (AP)—Bill O'Reilly's next book won't be a story of military wars but of the culture wars. The Fox News host and author of "Killing Japan" and other best-sellers has teamed with "Real Men Don't Eat Quiche" author Bruce Feirstein for "Old School: Life in the Sane Lane." Publisher Henry Holt told The Associated Press on Wednesday the book is scheduled for March 28. Holt says "Old School" asks readers whether they're on team Old School or Team Snowflake.

Old School means "can-do spirit and principles." Snow Flake means whining about "safe spaces" and "trigger warnings." You can guess which side the authors are on.

American Humane investigating treatment of dog in film

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The organization that ensures animal safety in film and television productions said Wednesday it is investigating whether a frightened dog was forced into churning water during the making of "A Dog's Purpose." American Humane has also suspended

its safety representative who worked on the film and is hiring an independent investigator to explore the matter, said Mark Stubis, a spokesman for the organization. The film's producer, Amblin Entertainment, and distributor, Universal Pictures, said in a joint statement that they are reviewing the footage, but they are confident that "great care and concern was shown" for the dog, a German Shepherd named Hercules. "There were several days of rehearsal of the water scenes to ensure Hercules was comfortable with all of the stunts," the statement said.

**COMEBACK RUN**

In this Jan. 16, 2006 file photo, cast members from the comedy series "Will & Grace," from left, Eric McCormack, Sean Hayes, Debra Messing and Megan Mullally, pose backstage after making an award presentation at the 63rd Annual Golden Globe Awards in Beverly Hills, Calif. "Will & Grace" will make a comeback on NBC with 10 new episodes of the hit comedy to air during the 2017-18 season.

AP

Couple's long, joyful marriage is based upon three principles

DEAR ABBY: Many of your published letters come from unhappy married women. Some of them seem unable to get objective advice that would make themselves and their marriages happier. I'm fortunate to be happily married (33 years) to a wonderful woman who has a clear perspective.

Three pearls of wisdom she could share:

1. Don't sulk because your husband can't read your mind. Trust him; he'd like to help. And listen to your tone as you point out how he can.

2. The way you talk about him to your friends is an expression of your fidelity. Talk about him honestly, but with respect. If you do, he'll admire and encourage your close friendships and take a sincere interest in your friends as people. If your MO is to grouse and complain about him, in his mind and heart he will feel you're abandoning him.

3. Be clear that while your husband might say he'd like to treat you like a queen, you're both better off being equals—partners, side-by-side. In our marriage, there is no "better half." There are two halves.

It's amazing how much joy we have experienced during our years together, based on this simple foundation. My esteem for my wife only grows each year -- something that seems impossible, but then again, fantastic things usually do.

PETER, A GRATEFUL HUSBAND

DEAR PETER: Thank you for sharing those words of wisdom because they apply to husbands as well as wives. **There's a saying: The higher the pedestal, the longer the fall. Partners who treat each other as equals and with respect—and the key word is "respect"—usually have long-lasting and happy unions. Those who complain behind a spouse's back, who denigrate rather than elevate, do not make themselves look better or their marriages healthier. I'm glad you wrote.**

DEAR ABBY: How do you deal with adult "children" who ignore issues about their health? My 30-something son had a root canal a few days ago. His face is swollen, he has lost sleep and is in pain. His wife has tried everything to get him to get it checked out, and she just called me in desperation.

Why does he do this? It isn't the first time she and others have begged him to take care of himself. She's pregnant and they have two other small kids. He has insurance, so it's not about money. It's just so stressful for those of us who love him. He works for himself and is a high-energy guy and a great dad.

QUESTIONING MY SON'S SANITY

DEAR QUESTIONING: Some men feel that acknowledging pain is showing weakness. They think that if they

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.



just "gut it out" a while longer, things will get better. And while many of them do, many also don't.

Pick up the phone and tell your daughter-in-law to call the dentist who did the root canal and ask whether what her husband is experiencing is normal. And if the answer is that it's not, she should tell her husband that "the surgeon wants him to come in for a recheck" to be sure his wounds haven't become infected.

Abby shares more than 100 of her favorite recipes in two booklets: "Abby's Favorite Recipes" and "More Favorite Recipes by Dear Abby." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$14 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Cookbooklet Set, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



Garfield®

By Jim Davis



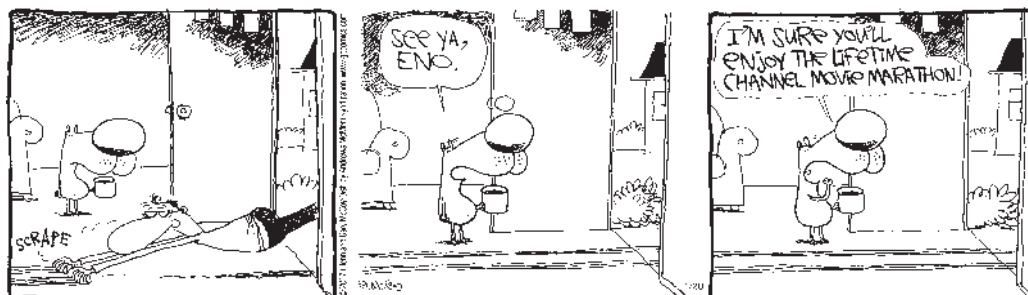
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 A bit lit

6 Carried out

9 Vinyl records

12 Emulate Lincoln

13 Language suffix

14 "Xanadu" band

15 Slugger Roger

16 Nickname for The Beatles

18 "Jeopardy!" emcee

20 "My treat" insect

21 Busy

23 Madrid

24 Clenches

25 Scatters seeds

27 Tuscany setting

29 Nucleus part

31 Blew it

35 Partner of Rolls

37 Desire

DOWN

38 English county

41 Gut-punch reaction

43 Many millennia

44 Evening in an ad

45 Jungle trek

47 Discard

49 "Hidalgo" star

52 Ms. Longoria

53 Devoured

54 Different

55 Rep.'s rival

56 Leary's drug

57 Hotel posting

17 Gift giver's words

19 Sea

21 Nile biter

22 Neither mate

24 Day-paint

26 Meryl of film

28 —

30 Tic-tac-toe loser

32 Cargo

33 Swelled head

34 Lair

36 Wheeled

38 Finished

39 Strainer

40 Fulton's power

42 Party gift

45 Poses

46 Actress Moreno

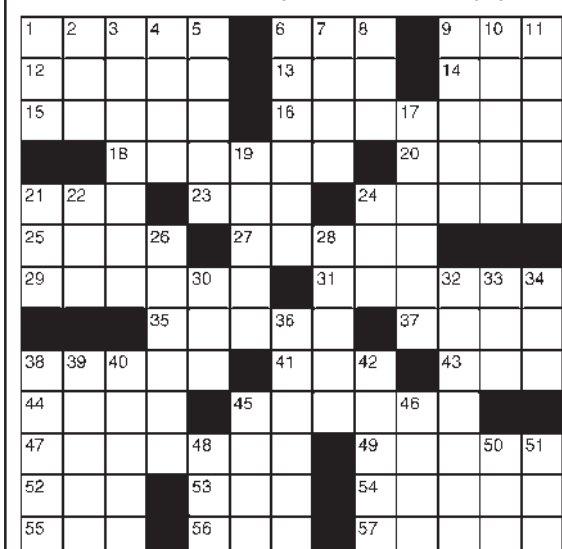
48 Erie Canal mule

50 "My word!"

51 Surgery ctrs.

Solution time: 25 mins.

Yesterday's answer 1-20



STUMPED?

For answers to today's crossword, call 1-800-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Stacey Dash, 50; Rainn Wilson, 51; Bill Maher, 61; David Lynch, 71.

Happy Birthday: Be a good listener and make worthwhile suggestions, and your popularity will grow. Don't share personal information or let others know too much about your plans until you have everything in place. The respect you gain and the reaction you get will set you up for an opportunity to do something that brings you great joy as well as a higher income. Your numbers are 1, 6, 15, 22, 32, 37, 46.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Stick to familiarity. Spend time with the people you know and trust. Avoid situations that will put you in jeopardy or lead to dealings with institutions or authority figures. Explore what is possible and alleviate guesswork about what to do next. ***

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Share your feelings, discuss plans and get involved in events that are important to you. A day trip or attending a retreat will be uplifting and help you make decisions that will alter your life and your relationships. ***

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Play the game if necessary when it comes to negotiating or dealing with money matters. Listen and derive what works for you and what doesn't, and carry on in the direction that will help you maintain a secure position and future. ***

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Share your feelings and you will get a good response. Dealing with children, your partner or even someone you do business with will be much

easier if you are honest and offer reasonable solutions to existing dilemmas. *****

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Look at your options. Making a change that will influence your financial life will need special consideration. Don't base decisions on your emotional needs. Make choices because they will have long-term positive effects. Self-improvement is a good place to begin. **

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): A partnership will give you the boost you need to make your dreams come true. Dealing with peers, children or your lover will help you get a clear picture of how you can accomplish your goals. Romance is featured. ****

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Take care of unfinished business to avoid complaints. It's important to find out what's important to others before you make choices that will affect the lives of others. An emotional reaction, indulgence and excessive spending or behavior will be your downfall. ***

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Emotions will surface. Channel this energy into love, romance and making your personal life better. Working on a creative project will bring stellar results that will inspire you to expand your interests and share your joy with someone you love. ***

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Work on creative endeavors or toward improvements that will help your community or a cause that concerns you. It's what you put out that will count when you tally up what you have and haven't achieved. Give your all. ***

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): An emotional plea will work wonders. Your ability to manipulate a situation will help you get ahead. A change in the way you do things will draw positive attention. Romance is on the rise and will improve your personal life. ****

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Look for a new and diverse way to utilize your talents in order to get ahead. You'll gain insight if you take a course or set up a meeting with someone who is heading down the same path as you. **

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Use your imagination and creativity to get what you want. Negotiating a deal or contract or discussing joint ventures looks promising. Make personal changes that will encourage more confidence to follow your heart and your dream. Romance is highlighted. *****

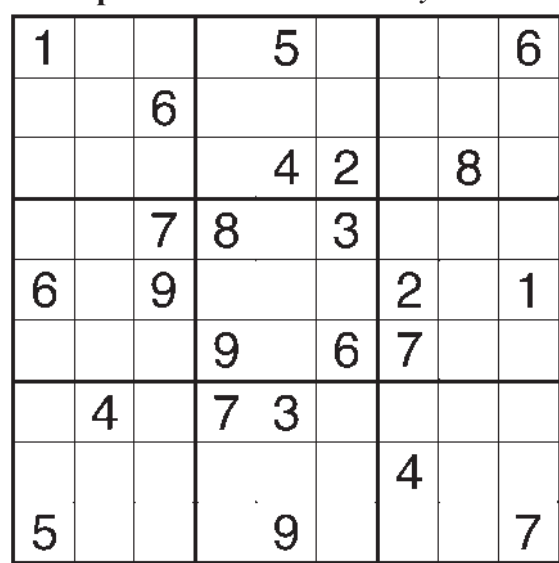
Birthday Baby: You are sensitive, thoughtful and creative. You are astute and productive.

Eugenia's website—eugenialast.com. Eugenia's android app @ <http://bit.ly/exhoro> and join Eugenia on twitter/facebook/linkedin.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green

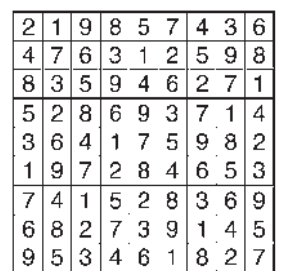


Difficulty Level ★★★★★

1/20

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer



WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

THE ATLANTA CENTER FOR PUPPETRY ARTS Sol.: 12 letters

S N O I T A D N U O F P S E S
A A O S T E P P U M L F E V K
S N K S R E L D N A H C I A E
P C R D N J M A Y S E N T L R
O Y E N S E O S T K C L I L M
H E S O T O H H T E G L V E I
S D G M E T U R N M N E I N T
K U E D M K R I T Y I I H T Y T
R C N E C V A R E J S C E H
O A A R I N A E O R P T A E E
W T M A T R S N B E I I S K F
Y I H H B T E T O U R M T I R
L O O I R S K R O W T R A N O
L N L A B Y R I N T H E T G G
Y E L I R Y K C E B A I R D E

©2017 Andrew Volkes www.wonderword.com Download the Wonderword Game App! 1/20

Activities, Allen Yee, Anthony, Arts, Artworks, Baird, Bear, Becky Riley, Cast, Chandler, Edmonds, Education, Film, Foundation, Henson, Image, Jim, John, Jones, Kermit The Frog, King, Kresge, Labyrinth, Library, Lohman, Mask, Mitchell, Muppets, Nancy, Outer, Play, Sing, Tale, Tickets, Tour, Trips, Trivia, Vincent, Workshops, Wyllie

Yesterday's Answer: Hallelujah
Jo's Jewels Collector's Edition is back by popular demand! Purchase online at www.WonderWordBooks.com or call 1-800-642-6480. (Contains 120 puzzles.)

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CLASSIFIED ADS

Paradise Salon

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

(1) Beautician

Must be able to perform beauty care, hair and make-up, as well as pedicure and manicure.

For more information, please call 233-2445

HERMAN'S MODERN BAKERY

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

(4) ACCOUNTANT
(1) CATERING COORDINATOR
(8) BAKER
(7) COOK

Interested applicants may send their resume to sales.saipan@hermansbakery.com or pick-up an application form at our HR office in Tun Herman Pan (Airport Road)

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Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Website: <http://www.opacnmi.com>
1236 Yap Drive, Capitol Hill, Saipan, MP 96950

Job Vacancy Announcement

Opening Date: 1/16/17 Closing Date: 1/31/17

POSITION: Administrative Assistant
EXAMINATION ANNOUNCEMENT NO: OPA-17-001

For more information, please visit our website at www.opacnmi.com or come visit us at our office in Capitol Hill. Interested persons may also pick up a copy of the Examination Announcement at the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) in Gualo Rai.

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www.guam.wish.org

EMPLOYMENT

(1) Building and ground maintenance repairer. Extensive experience and references required. Contact Tapochau Estates at 483-9351.

Robert Tenorio Torres
Attorney at Law
Plata Drive, Whispering Palms (Chalan Kiya)
P.O. Box 503758
Saipan, MP 96950

Tel: (670) 234-7859
Fax: (670) 234-5749

Attorney for Plaintiff

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

BANK OF GUAM, Plaintiff, vs. MURPHY P. REYES, Defendant.

Civil Action No. 16-0100R
SUMMONS

TO: THE ABOVE-NAMED DEFENDANT, MURPHY P. REYES:

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED AND NOTIFIED to file any answer you wish to make to the COMPLAINT, a copy of which is given to you herewith, within **Twenty (20) Days** after service of this Summons upon you, and to deliver or mail a copy of your answer to **Robert Tenorio Torres, Attorney at Law, Plata Drive, Whispering Palms (Chalan Kiya), P.O. Box 503758, Saipan, MP 96950**, or as soon as practicable after filing your answer or sending it to the Clerk of Court of the above-entitled Court for filing.

Your answer should be in writing and filed with the Office of the Clerk of Court, CNMI SUPERIOR COURT, 1st Floor, Guma' Hustia, Iimwal Aweewe, House of Justice, Susupe Village, P.O. Box 500307, Saipan MP 96950-0307. It may be prepared and signed for you by your Attorney and sent to the Clerk of Court by messenger or by mail. It is not necessary for you to appear personally until further notice.

If you fail to file an answer in accordance with this Summons, judgement by default pursuant to the court rules of the above-entitled Court may be taken against you for the relief demanded in the Complaint.

SO ORDERED on this the 25 day of May, 2016.

/s/ Clerk of Court/Deputy Clerk

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Position: Scuba Diving Instructor (Self-Enrichment Educational Teachers) x1
Work Location: Garapan, Saipan & other diving sites in the CNMI.
Working Hours: Full-time (8hrs/day, 40hrs/week; Flex Time)
Wage: \$18.37/hr.; frequency= monthly; O.T.= X 1.5
Job Duties: Teach, instruct, and guide scuba diving activities to individuals or groups at public or private facilities. Explains & demonstrates the basic of scuba diving & teaches the proper use of diving equipments. Conduct certification classes to achieve proficiency in diving. May assist customers at Employer's outdoor sports retail shop, and do other related duties as assigned.
Requirements: Minimum 5 years of work experience as scuba diving instructor. Must be a PADI or NAUI certified, licensed Scuba Diving Instructor. Must be able to speak, read and write Japanese language enough to teach and instruct scuba diving to tourists and regulars from Japan, that dominate the nationality of the Company's customers.
Compensations: Workers' Compensation provided. Other compensations negotiable.

Please send your resume with a copy of your diving instructor license or your inquiry by email or e-mail to: **AQUA CONNECTIONS, INC.**
E-mail aqua@pticom.com
Fax: (670) 233-3304

VEHICLE FOR BID
"SOLD AS IS"

2015 Honda Accord Sport 4 Dr Sedan

Vehicle may be viewed at Bank of Saipan Chalan Kanoa Branch on Friday January 13, 2017, January 20, 2017 and January 27, 2017 from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00p.m.

Last day for Bidding is Monday January 30, 2017 at 3:00 p.m. For more information, please call Loan Department for (Martin SN. Dela Cruz) at 235-6260 Extensions 121Or 123. The Bank reserves the right to refuse any and all bids.

Bank of Saipan
Marianas Pride

BRIDGE CAPITAL, LLC

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

(01) ONSITE CONSTRUCTION MANAGER (Full-time)

Summary
The onsite construction manager plans, directs and coordinates activities pertaining to the construction, renovation and maintenance of an assigned group of commercial and residential properties in accordance with company policies.

Qualifications and Experience
• You are able to plan, organize, direct, control and evaluate all phases of construction at the project sites.
• Your oral and written communication are excellent, thorough and attentive to details, able to prioritize and multitask, proactive and deadline-oriented.
• You are able to operate heavy equipment, machines, and hand held tools.
• You have the ability to read and understand work orders, safety rules, operating and maintenance instructions, and procedure manuals.
• You must be able to occasionally lift and move up to 50 pounds or more.

Responsibilities
• Assists the property management team with conducting property inspections.
• Coordinates with the property management team to ensure that the property complies with the codes and regulations of agencies such as insurance carrier and fire protection.
• Meets with existing building maintenance staff to ensure building codes are met, to perform a detailed inspection of property and to secure building historical plans.
• Evaluates specifications for plan procedures, start and completion dates, and staffing requirements for each phase of the construction project. Estimates the scope of work and obtains a minimum of three bids for comparison and completion of each job.
• Directs subcontractors and staff engaged in planning and executing work procedures.
• Inspects property and units under construction on a regular basis to ensure the work conforms to specifications, schedule and initiates any repair or replacement needs and/or adjustment of working procedures. Regularly communicates with the project team regarding unit and property status.
• Coordinates with the property management team regarding activities of maintenance and housekeeping staff.
• Provides simple estimates for the costs of materials and staffing for various construction and/or renovation projects.
• Reviews all invoices/purchase orders pertaining to the construction projects and submits all approved bills to the accounting department for processing and payment.
• Prepares simple construction budgets and timelines for all relevant projects.

Scope
• Applicants will be primarily based in our Saipan head office
• Salary Range

No phone calls please. Interested applicants must submit resume to our Bridge Capital office on Micro Beach Rd, Garapan or email to tania.mesa@bccnmi.com.
Deadline to submit application will be Tuesday, January 31, 2017 at 5:00 pm.

We're hiring!!!

GPS | General Pacific Services Marianas, Inc.

is currently looking to fill the position of

ACCOUNTANT / SECRETARY

Qualified applicants must have a strong background in accounting and office management, be trustworthy and reliable, have strong computer skills, excellent communication, writing and planning skills.

Please email your resume to ejquintanilla.pws@gmail.com.

GPSM is an EEO employer that promotes a drug-free work environment.

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Saipan Tribune's Classifieds Section gives you the right exposure without hurting your pockets. Stretch your dollar and get results.

CLASSIFIED LINER ADS

Saipan Tribune also offers a Super Saver Package—a complete 5-day run in both print and online editions, for as low as \$30 for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of the packages below.

ADS (PRINT) COMBO (PRINT AND ONLINE)

• 3-Liner \$15 \$30

• 5-Liner \$24 \$45

ADVERTISING DEADLINE

Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

CHECK YOUR ADS

Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. Saipan Tribune reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

ADVERTISING POLICY

All advertising in the Saipan Tribune are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, Saipan Tribune reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

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Find today's solution in classified section

Durant dazzles vs former Thunder team once more



OAKLAND, California (AP)—Kevin Durant dazzled against his old team with a season-best 40 points, and the Golden State Warriors beat Oklahoma City 121-100 on Wednesday night despite Russell Westbrook's 21st triple-double for the Thunder.

Westbrook had 27 points, 15 rebounds and 13 assists in an improved showing from his 20-point outing on 4-for-15 shooting when OKC first faced Durant in the other jersey here 2 1/2 months ago and watched him dismantle the Thunder from every which way.

In his two games against OKC, Durant has scored 79 points on 28-for-40 shooting. Durant also had 12 rebounds Wednesday.

Stephen Curry added 24 points and eight assists, and Klay Thompson had 14 points after he arrived back in the Bay Area just in time to play after a short absence dealing with a personal family matter.

Westbrook was knocked down by Golden State center Zaza Pachulia late in the first half, and Pachulia glared at Westbrook as he stood over him. Pachulia received a flagrant 1 foul and Westbrook promised after the game there would be payback at some point.

Pacers 106, Kings 100

In Sacramento, Calif., Paul George scored 24 points, Jeff Teague had 22 points, 11 assists and seven rebounds, and the Pacers used a big second half to rally for the road win.

Indiana trailed by as many as 22 points in the first half, and then outscored Sacramento to 65-40 in the final two quarters to win for the seventh time in eight games.

Reserve Al Jefferson had 20 points in 17 minutes for the Pacers, and Myles Turner had 16 points.

DeMarcus Cousins had 25 points, 12 rebounds and 10 assists for Sacramento, which lost Rudy Gay to a torn left Achilles tendon in the third quarter. It was Cousins' fifth career triple-double.

The Kings closed out a 1-6 homestand and have dropped eight of 10 overall.

76ers 94, Raptors 89

In Philadelphia, Joel Embiid scored 26 points, Ersan Ilyasova added 18 and resurgent Philadelphia won for the seventh time in nine games.

Embiid, who was questionable because of the flu, surpassed 20 points in fewer than 30 minutes in his 10th straight game.

With Embiid leading the way, the Sixers are no longer the NBA's laughingstock.



AP
Golden State Warriors' Kevin Durant (35) drives for a dunk attempt past Oklahoma City Thunder's Andre Roberson, center left, during the first half of an NBA basketball game Wednesday, Jan. 18, 2017, in Oakland, Calif.

with 39 points, his 13th time this season with 30 or more points. Jae Crowder added 21 for the Celtics, who lost for only the fourth time in 17 games.

Hornets 107, Trail Blazers 85

In Charlotte, N.C., Kemba Walker scored 23 points, Roy Hibbert provided a huge boost off the bench, and Charlotte stopped a five-game slide.

Nicolas Batum added 17 points for the Hornets, who limited the Trail Blazers to 35 percent shooting and snapped an eight-game streak of allowing at least 100 points. Hibbert, who came in averaging 5.2 points per game, had a season-high 16 points on 7-of-8 shooting, including an alley-oop pass intended for Frank Kaminsky that inadvertently went in.

Damian Lillard scored 21 points and C.J. McCollum had 18 for Portland, which has lost three straight and 16 of 22 since Dec. 5.

Pistons 118, Hawks 95

In Auburn Hills, Mich., Reggie Jackson scored 26 points to lead the balanced Pistons to the win.

Each of Detroit's starters scored in double figures, and the Pistons shot 49.5 percent from the field. Tobias Harris had 19 points, Reggie Bullock finished with 15 and Andre Drummond added 13 points and 17 rebounds.

Detroit raced out to a 42-18 first-quarter lead and never trailed.

Paul Millsap had 21 points and eight rebounds for the Hawks, who had won nine of 10. Dennis Schroder added 13 points and six assists.

Pelicans 118, Magic 98

In New Orleans, Anthony Davis had 21 points and 15 rebounds, and New Orleans cruised past short-handed Orlando.

Tyreke Evans and Langston Galloway added 18 points apiece for the Pelicans, who never trailed after the first quarter and extended their lead to as many as 28 points.

Aaron Gordon and Elfrid Payton each had 14 points for Orlando, which finished 1-5 on a season-long six-game trip that featured five games in the last eight days. The Magic played their third straight game without leading scorer Evan Fournier, who is out with a bruised right heel.

They're only 14-26 but have rejuvenated a city that has patiently waited for a winner through three miserable seasons.

DeMar DeRozan scored 25 for the Atlantic Division-leading Raptors, and Kyle Lowry had 24 points.

Wizards 104, Grizzlies 101

In Washington, John Wall had 25 points and 13 assists, and the Wizards earned their 13th consecutive home win.

James Ennis III missed a potential tying 3-pointer at the

buzzer for Memphis.

The Wizards are just 4-13 on the road but now 18-6 at home, where they've compiled their longest winning streak since a 15-game run in the 1988-89 season.

Washington never trailed and led by as many as 19 points in the first half, then held on after a 10-0 run by Memphis made it a two-point game with 2 1/2 minutes left. That's when Wall took over, scoring on consecutive drives.

Marc Gasol led Memphis with 28 points, and Mike Conley had 20.

Rockets 111, Bucks 92

In Houston, James Harden had 38 points, eight assists and six rebounds, powering the Rockets to the win.

Harden drilled a straight-away 3-pointer with six minutes left to give Houston a 13-point lead and shimmied his shoulders down the court in a celebratory dance as the Bucks called timeout.

Eric Gordon made seven 3-pointers and scored 25 points for the Rockets, who had dropped three of four.

Giannis Antetokounmpo had 32 points, 11 rebounds, six

assists and three blocks for Milwaukee, which was outscored 30-12 in the second quarter.

Knicks 117, Celtics 106

In Boston, Derrick Rose matched his season high with 30 points, helping the slumping Knicks to the road win.

New York played without injured starters Kristaps Porzingis and Joakim Noah, but Mindaugas Kuzminskas and Willy Hernangomez each scored 17 points. It was just the third win in 14 games for the Knicks.

Isaiah Thomas led Boston

Pliskova, Konta continue winning runs in Australia



MELBOURNE, Australia (AP)—U.S. Open finalist

Karolina Pliskova has carried her title-winning form in the warmup tournament into the season's first major, dropping just four games en route to the third round at the Australian Open.

Pliskova was leading 6-0, 4-0 against Anna Blinkova in the second round on Thursday before the 18-year-old Russian qualifier, ranked 189th, held serve and later held up her arm to acknowledge the cheers from the crowd. Fifth-seeded Pliskova finished off the 6-0, 6-2 in less than an hour—she won her first-round match 6-2, 6-0.

"It's always good to be in the zone," said Pliskova, who won the Brisbane International title earlier this month. "It can always be a bit better."

Pliskova has reached the third round for three straight years at Melbourne Park, which equaled her best previous run at a Grand Slam until she reached the final in New York last September. She beat Serena Williams in the semifinals at the U.S. Open before losing to Angelique Kerber.

"I'm feeling pretty good on the court, confident," she said. "Also, people are talking I have a good chance to win a Grand Slam, but we are just in third round, so let's see."

She will next play Jelena Ostapenko, who beat No. 31 Yulia Putintseva 6-3, 6-1.

Johanna Konta, who made a surprising run to the semifinals in her debut Australian Open last year before losing to eventual champion Kerber, advanced to the third round with a 6-4, 6-2 win over Naomi Osaka.

Konta, voted the WTA Tour's most improved player

of 2016 after moving from 48th to 10th in the rankings, opened the season by winning the Sydney International title last week.

Konta will next play former No. 1-ranked Caroline Wozniacki, the U.S. Open semifinalist last September. Wozniacki was broken while serving for the match against Donna Vekic, but immediately broke back at love to win 6-1, 6-3.

WTA Finals winner Dominika Cibulkova held off Hsieh Su-wei 6-4, 7-6 (8) and will next play No. 30 Ekaterina Makarova, who was leading 6-2, 3-2 when Sara Errani retired because of a leg injury.

No. 14 Elena Vesnina and No. 21 Caroline Garcia also advanced.

In men's second-round matches, No. 15 Grigor Dimitrov had a 1-6, 6-4, 6-4, 6-4 win over Chung Hye-on and will next play No. 18 Richard Gasquet, who beat Carlos

Berlocq 6-1, 6-1, 6-1.

No. 13 Roberto Bautista Agut beat Yoshihito Nishioka 6-2, 6-3, 6-3. No. 25 Gilles Simon advanced in straight sets over Rogerio Dutra Silva and No. 32 Philipp Kohlschreiber beat Donald Young 7-5, 6-3, 6-0.

No. 30 Pablo Carreno Busta had a 6-2, 6-4, 6-2 win over Kyle Edmund to move into a third-round match against either six-time Australian Open champion Novak Djokovic or Denis Istomin.

Andy Murray returned to the practice court for an afternoon hitting session under the scrutiny of coach Ivan Lendl, allaying concerns about his injured right ankle. Top-ranked Murray, a five-time runner-up at Melbourne Park, twisted his ankle and tumbled to the court during the third set of his otherwise routine second-round win on Wednesday night.

Bagwell, Raines, Ivan Rodriguez elected to Hall of Fame



NEW YORK (AP)—Bags and Rock and Pudge are heading to Cooperstown.

After a vote that could prove to be a turning point how Steroids Era stars are viewed, Barry Bonds and Roger Clemens could be joining them in the next few years.

Jeff Bagwell, Tim Raines and Ivan Rodriguez were elected to baseball's Hall of Fame on Wednesday, earning the honor as Trevor Hoffman and Vladimir Guerrero fell just short of the necessary 75 percent.

Bonds and Clemens, their careers tainted by allegations of steroids use, were passed over for the fifth straight year by the Baseball Writers' Association of America but each received a majority of votes for the first time.

"They were just awesome," Bagwell said. "Their demeanor, the way they went about their business, was just amazing, and I respect them."

On the ballot for the seventh time after falling 15 votes short last year, Bagwell appeared on 381 of 442 ballots for 86.2 percent. Players needed 332 votes this year.

"Anxiety was very, very high," Bagwell said. "It's a weird thing to be a Hall of Famer. I wrote it on a ball tonight. It was kind of crazy, so it was cool."

In his 10th and final year of eligibility, Raines was at 380 (86 percent). He was just the fifth player elected in his final year of eligibility after Red Ruffing (1967), Joe Medwick (1968), Ralph Kiner (1975) and Jim Rice (2009).

"Last night was probably the worst night I've had out of the 10 years," Raines said. "I knew

I was close, but I wasn't sure."

Raines started at 24.3 percent in 2008 and jumped from 55 percent in 2015 to 69.8 percent last year. He said modern metrics boosted his chances from days when voters considered primarily whether players had 3,000 hits, 500 homers or 300 wins.

"I think social media played a big role," he said. "There are some things that I did that a lot of the guys that's already in the Hall of Fame didn't actually do. So I think it kind of made them look a lot at me a lot closer and they looked a lot deeper, and I think the more they looked, I think the better it turned out for me."

Rodriguez, at 45 the youngest current Hall member, received 336 votes (76 percent).

"I've been having trouble sleeping for three days," he said.

Rodriguez, the 52nd player elected in his first year of eligibility, joins Johnny Bench in 1989 as the only catchers voted in on their first ballot.

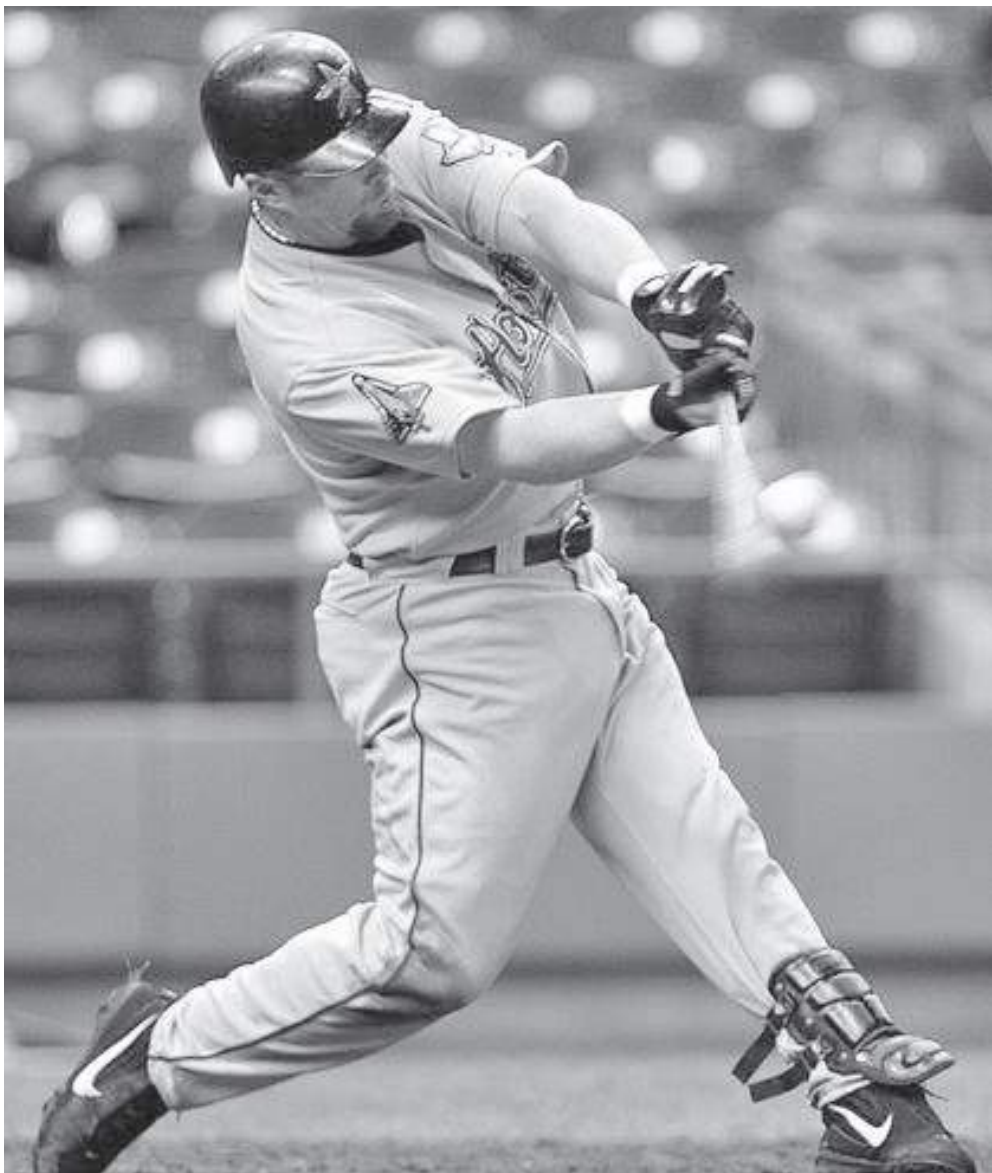
"Johnny Bench was my favorite player growing up," Pudge added.

Hoffman was five votes short and Guerrero 15 shy.

"Falling short of this class is disappointing," Hoffman said in a statement. "I am truly humbled to have come so close. I hope to one day soon share a Hall of Fame celebration with my family, friends, teammates and all of San Diego."

Edgar Martinez was next at 58.6 percent, followed by Clemens at 54.1 percent, Bonds at 53.8 percent, Mike Mussina at 51.8 percent, Curt Schilling at 45 percent, Lee Smith at 34.2 percent and Manny Ramirez at 23.8 percent.

Players will be inducted July 30 during ceremonies at Co-



perstown along with former Commissioner Bud Selig and retired Kansas City and Atlanta executive John Schuerholz, both elected last month by a veterans committee. Some voters said the election of Selig, who presided over the Steroids Era, transformed their view of whether tainted stars should gain entry to the Hall.

Bagwell was a four-time All-Star for Houston, finishing with a .297 batting average, 401

homers and 1,401 RBIs. Among 220 Hall of Fame players, he is the 50th whose entire big league career was with one club.

Raines, fifth in career stolen bases, was a seven-time All-Star and the 1986 NL batting champion who compiled a .294 average and .385 on-base percentage. He spent 13 of 23 big league seasons with the Montreal Expos, who left Canada to become the Washington Nationals for the 2005 season, and joins

Andre Dawson and Gary Carter as the only players to enter the Hall representing the Expos.

Rodriguez, a 14-time All-Star who hit .296 with 311 homers and 1,332 RBIs, was never disciplined for PEDs but former Texas teammate Jose Canseco alleged in a 2005 book that he injected the catcher with steroids. Asked whether he was on the list of players who allegedly tested positive for steroids during baseball's 2003 survey,

AP
In this April 20, 2003, file photo, Houston Astros' Jeff Bagwell hits a home run against the Milwaukee Brewers in the fifth inning of a baseball game in Milwaukee.

Rodriguez said in 2009: "Only God knows."

Rodriguez displaced Pedro Martinez as the youngest of the record 74 living Hall members.

Bonds, a seven-time MVP who holds the season and career home run records, received 36.2 percent in 2013 and jumped from 44.3 percent last year. Clemens, a seven-time Cy Young Award winner, rose from 45.2 percent last year.

"Barry Bonds was the best player I played against in my entire life," Bagwell said.

A 12-time All-Star on the ballot for the first time, Ramirez was twice suspended for violating baseball's drug agreement. He helped the Boston Red Sox win World Series titles in 2004 and '07, the first for the franchise since 1918, and hit .312 with 555 home runs and 1,831 RBIs in 19 big league seasons.

Several notable players will join them in the competition for votes in upcoming years: Chipper Jones and Jim Thome in 2018, Mariano Rivera and Roy Halladay in 2019, and Derek Jeter in 2020.

Twelve players have been elected by the BBWAA in the past four years, the most over a span of that length since the first four ballots from 1936-39.

Lee Smith, who had 478 saves, got 34 percent in his final time on the ballot. Jorge Posada, Tim Wakefield and Magglio Ordonez were among the players who got under 5 percent and fell off future ballots.

MLB BRIEFS

Bautista, Blue Jays agree to \$18.5M, 1-year deal

TORONTO (AP)—Jose Bautista is staying with the Toronto Blue Jays, after all. Toronto said Wednesday the free agent slugger had agreed to an \$18.5 million, one-year contract with Toronto that includes mutual options for more years. Bautista gets an \$18 million salary this year, and the deal includes a \$17 million mutual option for 2018 with a \$500,000 buyout, payable if either side declines. There is a \$20 million option for 2019 that becomes guaranteed if Bautista has 300 games played during the next two seasons and does not have a physical impairment that would prevent him from playing in 2019.

Trevor Plouffe finalizes \$5.25M, 1-year deal with A's

OAKLAND, Calif. (AP)—Infielder Trevor Plouffe has finalized a \$5.25 million, one-year contract with the Oakland Athletics and is expected to be the primary third baseman if he can stay healthy. Plouffe can earn an additional \$750,000 in performance bonuses based on plate appearances as part of the agreement announced Wednesday: \$150,000 for 350, and \$300,000 each for 450 and 525. He spent three stints on the disabled list last season, when he began as Minnesota's starting third baseman and hit a career-best .260 with 12 home runs and 47 RBIs in 84 games. He was batting .302 with two home runs and six RBIs over 12 games before his first time on the DL on April 19 with a strain in the right ribcage area. He was sidelined again from July 2 to Aug. 7 because of a broken left rib, then didn't play again after Sept. 6 because of a strained left hamstring. The 30-year-old provides versatility as he can also play first, making

13 starts there and 60 at third. Oakland designated right-hander Zach Neal for assignment.

Rangers' Diekmann out at least half season because of colitis

ARLINGTON, Texas (AP)—Texas Rangers reliever Jake Diekmann is expected to miss at least half the season after upcoming surgery to treat colitis, a digestive condition. Diekmann, the top left-hander in the Texas bullpen, has battled the condition throughout his career. Rangers general manager Jon Daniels said Tuesday the team was aware of the possible surgery and absence before agreeing with Diekmann last week on a \$2.55 million, one-year contract to avoid salary arbitration. The surgery is planned for Jan. 25. Diekmann had a flare-up with his condition, which affects the intestines and colon, during the holidays. The 29-year-old Diekmann was 4-2 with a 3.40 ERA and four saves last season for the AL West champions. He came to Texas along with ace Cole Hamels in a deal with Philadelphia at the trading deadline in 2015.

AP source: Phillies, Saunders agree to \$9M, 1-year deal

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—Outfielder Michael Saunders and the Philadelphia Phillies have agreed on a \$9 million, one-year contract, a person familiar with the negotiations told The Associated Press. The person spoke on condition of anonymity on Monday because the Phillies had not announced the agreement. Saunders' deal was first reported by MLB.com. MLB Network reported Saunders has an option for 2018 worth \$11 million with escala-

tors that can make it reach \$14 million, and the deal includes a \$1 million buyout. A 2016 AL All-Star with Toronto, Saunders hit a career-best 24 homers and batted .253 with 57 RBIs last season. The left-handed hitting Saunders gives the Phillies a much-needed power threat at a spot they sorely lacked it. Peter Bourjos led Philadelphia's corner outfielders with only five homers last year. Saunders is projected to start in right field. The Phillies also acquired Howie Kendrick from the Dodgers earlier in the offseason to play left field. Centerfielder Odubel Herrera, an All-Star last season, signed a \$30.5 million, five-year contract in December. Saunders is coming off a difficult second half. He batted .178 with eight homers and 15 RBIs after the All-Star break.

A-Rod takes swing at new TV show for cash-strapped jocks

NEW YORK (AP)—Alex Rodriguez is no stranger to big money. Now the former New York Yankees slugger will host a new CNBC show in which he guides financially distressed athletes. The network said Tuesday it ordered a pilot. The show's working title is "Back in the Game." Rodriguez and other mentors will assist one cash-strapped ex-athlete looking to land a job or build a business. Former NFL star Michael Strahan is among the executive producers. The program is to be produced by SMAC Entertainment and Machete Productions. Rodriguez was suspended for the 2014 season following an investigation of his use of banned performance-enhancing drugs. He was released by the New York Yankees last August with more than a season left on his \$325 million, 10-year contract. He worked as a TV commentator this past postseason.

New pitching leader in Masters; Acosta stays on top

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER



The BSI Aces' Ben Duenas is the new pitching leader in the 2016 Masters Baseball League, while his teammate John Acosta kept the top spot in the batting list.

Duenas' 2.33 ERA led eight other pitchers. He took the lead after pitching 15 innings in the BSI Aces' nine games and allowing only five runs. Papa Bears' Bob Lizama moved up to second with his 2.63 ERA (eight innings pitched and three runs allowed), while former leader Melvin Sakisat dropped to third with his 2.96 ERA (26 innings pitched and 11 runs allowed).

Completing the leaderboard are GSM Masters' Tony Flores (3.05 ERA), Old Stars' Bill Camacho (3.87), GMS Masters' John Diaz (3.90), Old Stars' Darren Flores (4.67), Saisei's Steve Igisair (5.25), and Rubak's Donald Pangelinan (6.00).

In the batting race, Acosta's .618 is still the best in the field.

He went 21-for-34 at bat to lead 14 others. The Old Stars' Jess Mesa is at second place and the only other batter to average at least .600. He was 18-for-30 at the plate.

GSM Masters' John Terlaje (.571) and Jerry Ayuyu (.538), and the Old Stars' Manny Cabrera (.531) rounded out the Top 5.

Also on the leaderboard were BSI Aces' Reno Celis (.483), Old Stars' Randall Aguon (.480), Saisei's Taylor Germance (.471), Papa Bears' Jojo Attao (.444), Rubak's Mabel Ngringemelas (.444) and Theo Minor (.423), Old Stars' George David (.419), GSM Masters' Mark Flores (.417) and Ben Hocog (.389), and BSI Aces' Joe Tenorio (.385).

The batting leaders were based on 24 or more times at bat.

In other statistics, the Old Stars' James Fleming and Walter Macaranas are ahead in runs scored with apiece; George David in doubles (6); and Jess Mesa in RBI (19). Fleming also has the most triples so far with two, tying

Ben Mesa. Bill Camacho is on top of the most strikeouts race with his 36.

Meanwhile, the Masters

league also has a new leader in the Old Stars, who improved to a 7-2 record. Erstwhile pacesetter BSI Aces slid to

second with its 6-2 record after losing to the GSM Masters last week. The GSM Masters are ranked third with their 6-3

card, followed by Papa Bears (3-5), Saisei (3-6), and Rubak (1-8). Papa Bears won over Rubak last Wednesday, 34-24.

Roethlisberger hoping to play up to Brady's 'gold standard'



PITTSBURGH (AP) — Ben Roethlisberger intended for the moment to be private. The camera following him to midfield and the microphone tucked inside Tom Brady's shoulder pads ended up making that impossible.

Their brief exchange before Brady and the New England Patriots visited the Pittsburgh Steelers in October provided a snapshot into a rivalry that never was. They bro-hugged. They lamented the left knee injury that forced Roethlisberger out the lineup on that warm late fall afternoon.

And then Roethlisberger made an uncharacteristic request: a signed Brady jersey to hang on the wall in Roethlisberger's home office next to Hall of Famers Dan Marino, John Elway and Jim Kelly.

"I consider him one, if not

the best of all-time," Roethlisberger said.

A group Roethlisberger does not include himself in.

Not even with as many championships as Brady's longtime friend and occasional foil Peyton Manning (two). Not even with a spot in the top 10 in just about every major statistical category out there on Roethlisberger's still growing resume. Not even with a bust in Canton one day alongside Brady and the rest of the guys whose jerseys adorn the walls of his home almost assured regardless of what happens in Sunday's AFC title game.

The reason is simple: rings. Brady has four, including two he earned while carving a path through the playoffs that included victories in Pittsburgh in 2001 and 2004. Roethlisberger has two, neither of which required Roethlisberger or the Steelers to take out Brady along the way.

It's why Roethlisberger just shakes his head when asked if he's part of the "gold standard" label that he so eagerly

attaches to Brady.

"Not as (his) level," Roethlisberger said. "Obviously, with all the Super Bowls he has."

This weekend provides Roethlisberger his best—and maybe his last—chance to do to Brady what Brady has done to so many others over the last 16 years. Even if the last thing Roethlisberger wants to do is get pulled into the "star quarterback vs. star quarterback" narrative that fueled so many showdowns between Brady and Manning through the years.

"It's obviously bigger than the two of us," Roethlisberger said. "I know he is used to it, with the Peyton Manning and Tom thing. This is two football teams that have won championships. Us going against each other is more than just one man. We aren't playing tennis. We are going out there to play a football game with 11 guys at a time."

Maybe, but the outcome will be attached to Roethlisberger's legacy more than any other player. The list of oppos-

ing quarterbacks Roethlisberger has beaten with a trip to the Super Bowl on the line doesn't exactly roll right off the tongue: Jake Plummer, Mark Sanchez and Joe Flacco. Brady and the Patriots they are not.

The two first met in the postseason at frigid Heinz Field in the 2004 AFC championship, Roethlisberger the rookie came in a perfect 14-0 as a starter against Brady and the defending Super Bowl champions. The clinic lasted 3:06. Brady threw for 207 yards and two touchdowns while New England's defense forced Roethlisberger into three interceptions, including an 87-yard interception return by Rodney Harrison late in the first half that gave the Patriots a 21-point lead they never came close to relinquishing on their way to a third crown in four years.

"They got after me," Roethlisberger said. "They made me make some mistakes. I just realized kind of what it was going to take to get over that hump."

ROLLERS 1

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wealth in its demolition of Rollers 2. Four Rollers 1 players hit double figures as the division leader reached the century mark. June Alipio fired 28 points, Aaron Ogumoro recorded 26, and Angelo Factor and Dalton Dancoc chipped in 14 and 10, respectively.

With Rollers 1's gunners on target, they led from the get-go and were never threatened to move two wins away from sweeping the elimination round.

Sam Darag registered 16 points in a losing effort for Rollers 2, which fell to an even 2-2 record.

Rollers 2 earlier gained its second win after stunning Vibes in last Monday's final game, 49-38.

Prince Factor, Jun Fidelino, and Warren Ellama teamed up in lifting Rollers 2 to victory after combining for 32 points. Factor had 12 markers, while Fidelino and Ellama contrib-

uted 11 and 9, respectively.

Vibes, which fell to a 1-2 slate, drew 12 points from Michael Mancao. The team played without Matt Duenas and Douglas Schmidt.

In other results, MHS improved to a 3-2 record after outclassing the Ol'Aces 1, 46-39, in their U16 division match. Jedial Manalo led MHS with his 15 points, while Duncan Laxa had 17 for the Ol'Aces 1, which was still winless after three games.

WOMEN'S DIVISION
Fiesta 55 — Diaz 8, Joyce 8, Francisco 8, Tuazon 8, Ito 5, Costales 5, Lee 4, Pagarao 2.

Armotech 19 — Lumabi 6, Ocampo 4, Peredo 3, Francisco 2, Cruzat 2, Hemley 2.

Scoring by halves: 22-6, 55-19.

U16 DIVISION

MHS 46 — Manalo 15, Abejo 9, Tenorio 5, Angelo 3, Sagum 3, Agustin 2, Yetman 2, Reyes 2.

(3), 10-4 triumph over compatriots Tessa McCann and Lara McNaughten to earn the right to face Kamoe and Lee in the quarterfinals.

For their Round of 8 match, Lee and Kamoe picked up where they left off, eliminating Australia's Tallulah Farrow and Kirijana Petreski after only two sets, 6-4, 6-2.

Next up for Lee and Kamoe are the No. 2 seeds Nina Paripovich and Price. The Aussies also did not drop a single set in their first two victories, topping New Zealand's Domi-

Ol'Aces 1 39 — Laxa 17, Ogasawara 7, Lajara 6, Augustin 5, Lu 4.

Scoring by halves: 26-16, 46-39.

U25 DIVISION Monday Game

Rollers 2 49 — Factor 12, Fidelino 11, Ellama 9, Mendoza 6, Darag 5, Valenzuela 2.

Vibes 38 — Mancao 12, Macahito 6, Santos 6, Deleon Guerrero 5, Tudela 2, Vivero 2, Urbano 2.

Scoring by halves: 20-21, 49-38.

Wednesday Game

Rollers 1 100 — Alipio 28, Ogumoro 26, Factor 14, Dancoc 10, J. Pangelinan 7, T. Pangelinan 6, Abobo 5, Mendiola 3.

Rollers 2 50 — Darag 16, Factor 8, Rabauliman 6, Fidelino 5, Tengco 4, McKenzie 4, Mendoza 4, Tengco 4, Ellama 4.

Scoring by halves: 36-20, 100-50.

nique Matich-Reynolds and Belarus Ines Stephan, 6-1, 6-2, and compatriots Joy Andreou and Harmony Mitsos, 6-4, 6-2, to take a semis seat.

The other semis pairing will have the No. 7 ranked pair of Grishuk and New Zealand's Holly Stewart dueling the No. 8 pair of Japan's Yuna Ohashi and Shin. Grishuk and Stewart stunned No. 1 and siblings Sara and Uma Nayar in the quarterfinals, 4-6, 6-1, 10-2, while Ohashi and Shin also pulled off an upset against No. 3 Kalachova and Australia's

MCDONALD'S

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by encouraging them to play sports," Ayuyu Jr. said in a statement sent to *Saipan Tribune*.

Tenorio said having committed sponsors makes it easier for them to form a team, recruit players, and continue the program.

"My two sons are part of the program. They're done playing and are now coaching, trying to give back to the community and help out in developing young players," said the older Tenorio, whose sons Patrick Jr. and Anthony are the head and assistant coaches of McDonald's.

Meanwhile, McDonald's will vie for the Majors division title against the defending champions Comets, Little

Sanyukta Singh, 6-4, 6-3.

The Wilson Tennis Canterbury ITF is a Grade 4 tournament and with Lee's quarterfinals stint in the singles and semis in the doubles, she is already assured of ranking points from her first event in New Zealand this year.

Forty points will be awarded to the singles champion in the Wilson Tennis Canterbury ITF and 30 to the runner-up. The semifinalists will receive 20, and 15 and 10 to quarterfinalists and losers in Last 16. In the doubles, the champions

Legals, Red Sox, Falcons, Braves, Pirates 1, Pirates 2, Twins, and the Ol'Aces.

In the Junior division, there are only six team—Comets, Braves, Enforcers, Red Sox, Ol'Aces, and Falcons. The Falcons are also competing in the Seniors along with the Red Sox, Enforcer, and Blue Jays.

The 2017 season will open on Feb. 9 at 5pm at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield with teams in the Senior League playing in the first and only game that day.

The 20 confirmed squads are asked to turn in requirements during the player document drive, which will run from Feb. 1 to 3 from 5:30pm to 7:30pm at the conference room of the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

For more information about

the SLLB 2017 season, call SLLB president A.J. Murig at 783-2710 or contact him via email at aj_murig@live.com or at saipanllb@gmail.com.



TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

NBA STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Toronto	28	14	.667	—
Boston	26	16	.619	2
New York	19	24	.442	9½
Philadelphia	14	26	.350	13
Brooklyn	8	33	.195	19½

Southeast Division

Atlanta	24	18	.571	—
Washington	22	19	.537	1½
Charlotte	21	21	.500	3
Orlando	17	27	.386	8
Miami	12	30	.286	12

Central Division

Cleveland	29	11	.725	—
Indiana	22	19	.537	7½
Milwaukee	20	21	.488	9½
Chicago	21	22	.488	9½
Detroit	20	24	.455	11

WESTERN CONFERENCE Southwest Division

San Antonio	32	9	.780	—
Houston	33	12	.733	1
Memphis	25	19	.568	8½
New Orleans	17	26	.395	16
Dallas	14	27	.341	18

Northwest Division

Utah	27	16	.628	—
Oklahoma City	25	19	.568	2½
Denver	17	23	.425	8½
Portland	18	26	.409	9½
Minnesota	14	28	.333	12½

Pacific Division

Golden State	36	6	.857	—
L.A. Clippers	29	14	.674	7½
Sacramento	16	25	.390	19½
Phoenix	13	28	.317	22½
L.A. Lakers	15	31	.326	23

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

LEE

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unranked qualifier in the group.

In the doubles event, the Final Four features all seeded pairs, including Lee and her partner Mulan Kamoe of Fiji.

The Pacific Oceania Touring Team members are ranked fifth and drew a bye in the first round. Kamoe and Lee then defeated New Zealand's Sophia Fry and Brooke Kenny in two sets, 6-2, 6-1, to move into the quarterfinals. The Kiwi duo came off a tough 6-2, 6-7

2017 JEM Company/Mobil Basketball League

PHOTOS By ROSELYN B. MONROYO



Westco's Isagani Cortez left, reaches in to tap the ball away from CTSI/D&Q's Tim Asaivao during their game in the 2017 JEM Company Ltd./Mobil Customer Appreciation Basketball League at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium.



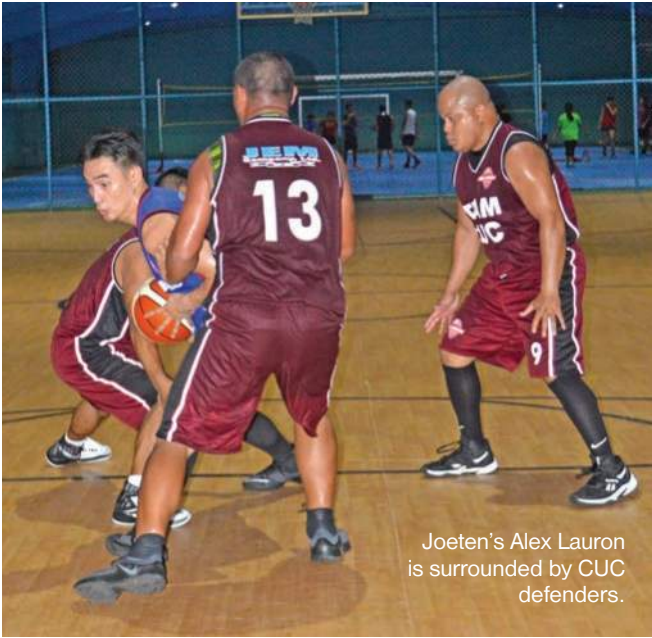
Derek Olopai, right, drives against CUC's Travis Spaeth.



TanHoldings' Bart Demapan, right, dribbles baseline against a GPPC defender.



GPPC players watch TanHoldings' Douglas Schmidt unloads a point-blank shot.



Joeten's Alex Lauron is surrounded by CUC defenders.



Joeten's Chris Rogolifoi, left, pulls up for a jumper in front of Best Deal/RNV Construction's Ryan Odicta.



Best Deal/RNV Construction's Jojit Jumaquio is up against Joeten's Chris Rogolifoi, left, and Kelvin Fitia.



CTSI/D&Q's Ariel Jinang, third left, fouls Westco's Isagani Cortez.



Durant dazzles
vs former
Thunder team
once more

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Bagwell, Raines,
Ivan Rodriguez
elected to Hall
of Fame

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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Lee boosts title bid in NZ

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The CNMI's Carol Lee is still in contention for the singles and doubles events in the Wilson Tennis Canterbury ITF as she has yet to lose a match at the Z Energy Wilding Park in Christchurch, New Zealand.

In the singles event, Lee won her first two games in the main draw to advance to the quarterfinal round. The No. 2 seed



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The CNMI's Carol Lee, seen here playing in the 2016 Chuck E. Cheese's ITF Junior Championships last year at the Rick Ninete Tennis Centre in Hagatna, Guam, is in the hunt for the singles and doubles crowns in a tournament in New Zealand.



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Rollers 2's Prince Factor holds on to the ball, while Vibes' Michael Mancao tries to pressure him during the second half of their U25 division game in the TanHoldings holiday caging last Monday at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium.

Rollers 1, Fiesta still unbeaten

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Rollers 1 and Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan kept their perfect records in the 2016 TanHoldings Christmas Basketball Tournament after downing separate foes last Wednesday at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium.

In the U25 division, Rollers 1 pounded Rollers 2, 100-50, for its third win in as many games. Fiesta earned the same 3-0 record following a 55-19 rout of

Armotech in the women's division pairing.

Fiesta eased past Armotech (1-3) after playing a balance offense. Maron Diaz, Krizel Tuazon, Paulyn Joyce, and Charmaine Francisco posted 8 points apiece for Fiesta, which pulled away early taking a 22-6 halftime edge. The four other scorers for Fiesta had at least 4 points each.

Rollers 1 also spread the

See ROLLERS 1 on
Page 30

swept Australia's Yasmin Glazbrook, 6-3, 6-1, in their second round match at the lower half of the draw last Tuesday and then had a similar straight sets victory against No. 13 Christy Robinson on New Zealand, 6-4, 6-2, yesterday to book a Round of 8 ticket.

In the quarterfinals, which crown. She downed South Korea's Jiho Shin, 6-2, 6-4, and Australia's Maggie Pearce, 7-6 (4), 6-3.



Joining Price and Lee in the Round of 8 were the U.S.' Skyler Marie Grace Grishuk, Malay-

sia's Sarah and Uma Nayar, Australia's Anastasia Berezov, New Zealand's Oleksandra Kalachova, and Japan's Koharu Niimi. Seven of the quarterfinalists are seeded players, while Berezov was the only

See LEE on Page 30

McDonald's keeps commitment to Little League players

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

McDonald's is among the 10 teams competing in the Ma-

jors division of the 2017 Saipan Little League Baseball that will open next month.

"This is our 15th



year in the SLLB under the sponsorship of McDonald's," team official Patrick Tenorio Sr. said.

"I think our team has the longest corporate sponsor among the participating squads in the SLLB and we are very fortunate to have McDonald's as our supporter. We can't thank them enough for their generosity and commitment to our youth program," Tenorio said.

Tenorio received a portion of McDonald's annual donation to their Little League team from store general manager Joe E. Ayuyu Jr. during a brief turnover ceremony last Tuesday at McDonald's Middle Road.

"We would love to see the kids go out and play sports, like baseball, that's why we intend to keep supporting the Little League team of Mr. Tenorio. We, at McDonald's want to promote an active lifestyle for our youth

See MCDONALD'S on
Page 30



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

McDonald's store general manager Joe E. Ayuyu Jr., second left, hands over the ceremonial check to McDonald's Little League team official Patrick Tenorio Sr., third left, during a turnover ceremony last Tuesday at McDonald's Middle Road. Also in the photo are manager Donovan Mendiola, left, McDonald's Middle Road Store 2016 Employee of the Year Celso Reginio.